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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

4 v.

15 Cr. 643 (PKC)

5 GARY HIRST,

6 Defendant.

7 -----x

8 September 19, 2016
10:15 a.m.

9 Before:

HON. P. KEVIN CASTEL

10 District Judge
11 and a Jury

12 APPEARANCES

13 PREET BHARARA

14 United States Attorney for the
Southern District of New York

15 BY: BRIAN R. BLAIS

AIMEE HECTOR

16 REBECCA G. MERMELSTEIN

Assistant United States Attorneys

17 SHER TREMONTE LLP

18 Attorneys for Defendant

19 BY: MICHAEL TREMONTE

JUSTINE A. HARRIS

20 NOAM KORATI BIALE

21 ALSO PRESENT:

SPECIAL AGENT SHANNON BIENIEK, FBI

22 ELLIE SHEINWALD, Paralegal

GARY SMITH, Paralegal

23 RYAN POLLOCK, Paralegal

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1 (Trial resumed; jury not present)

2 THE COURT: So you have kept me busy with the reading
3 material, which is fine. But let's talk for a moment, and
4 maybe I can do this a little bit in the direction of the
5 government's case before we talk about things that relate to
6 the defendant's case.

7 With regard to Mr. Flatley, there is an obligation on
8 the part of the government to prove its case by proof beyond a
9 reasonable doubt, each element of the crime, and there is
10 nothing inappropriate in permitting the government to call the
11 witness in its direct case, and I will allow that.

12 With regard to Jamie Patturelli, Jamie Patturelli is
13 not offered as an expert witness and will be precluded from
14 offering opinion evidence. However, the witness is able to
15 testify as to what the person saw, what they did, what
16 circumstances gave rise to their action, and whether that was
17 based on experience or otherwise.

18 A medical doctor is testifying typically as a fact
19 witness when he reports what he diagnosed a patient as
20 suffering from when he saw that patient two years ago. That's
21 fact testimony. Someone who wants to give an opinion apart
22 from their factual participation in past events can only do so
23 if they are designated experts. So that comes in.

24 With regard to Exhibit 910, I want to see it. Maybe
25 we will to it at the lunch break, at some point. I want to see

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1 it and hear from you all so I can have a better understanding
2 of the issue.

3 MS. HARRIS: Your Honor, just this morning, and we
4 apologize for leaving it off of the filing last night, a hard
5 copy was provided to your Honor's deputy clerk.

6 THE COURT: I know. I just received it as I was
7 taking the bench, and it is the kind of thing that hearing you
8 all on may be appropriate. Of course, it's a demonstrative.
9 It illustrates the testimony, and certainly if a witness can
10 say it, the chart can show it. And whether the witness's
11 testimony, as long as it meets admissibility, is truthful,
12 accurate and correct, is a matter for cross-examination. But I
13 want to hear more.

14 There is also an alternate ground now argued for the
15 statements made by Jason Galanis to federal agents about a
16 particular investment, a particular circumstance, if Mr. Hirst
17 knew that a particular figure was going to be involved in the
18 transaction.

19 Now, I believe I have covered this before, but I will
20 ask it again and see whether the answer has changed from my
21 recollection, but does the government know what transaction Mr.
22 Galanis was referring to?

23 MR. BLAIS: Yes, we do.

24 THE COURT: What transaction was that?

25 MR. BLAIS: It was an investment in a company called

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1 The Ozone Man. I think it was also referred to by its ticker
2 symbol, which is TOMI.

3 THE COURT: When was this transaction floated?

4 MR. BLAIS: I believe it was in 2009, although I'm not
5 100 percent sure of the timing on that.

6 THE COURT: Our jurors are here.

7 I will hear further argument on that.

8 Bring the witness in and bring our jurors in, please.

9 (Continued on next page)

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Hlavsa - Cross

1 (Jury present)

2 MICHAEL HLAVSA, resumed.

3 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, good morning. I
4 hope you had a very pleasant weekend. I won't say I imagine
5 you had a relaxing weekend because like a lot of people I
6 suspect you were running around doing lots of things that need
7 to be done. I know I was, and that's what life is about.

8 But Saturday was a beautiful, gorgeous, fabulous
9 weather day. I hope you got to enjoy some of it. And even
10 yesterday had its moments. So it's good to see you all back in
11 action.

12 And, Mr. Hlavsa, the Court reminds you that you are
13 still under oath.

14 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

15 THE COURT: Mr. Tremonte, you may proceed.

16 MR. TREMONTE: Thank you, your Honor.

17 CROSS-EXAMINATION (Cont'd)

18 BY MR. TREMONTE:

19 Q. Good morning, Mr. Hlavsa.

20 A. Good morning.

21 Q. I think when we finished up on Thursday, I was asking you
22 about Government Exhibit 589.

23 MR. TREMONTE: If we can bring that up on the screen.

24 Q. Government Exhibit 589, as you will remember, is a letter
25 on Gerova stationery dated January 28, 2011, and it's addressed

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Hlavsa - Cross

1 to NYSE Regulation, Inc.

2 Do you see that on your screen?

3 A. I do.

4 Q. Do you remember that?

5 A. I do.

6 Q. Before you answered questions about 589, I showed you a
7 series of drafts of that letter.

8 Do you remember that?

9 A. I do.

10 Q. One of them was Defendant's Exhibit 209 in evidence,
11 correct?

12 You don't have to answer yet. Let me bring the
13 document up so you can see it so you know what I am asking you.

14 A. Thank you.

15 MR. TREMONTE: Just to make sure, this is the redacted
16 version?

17 Q. If we don't have the redacted version, why don't I give you
18 a hard copy so you can follow.

19 A. Thank you.

20 Q. This has my notes on it. Sorry.

21 While we are waiting for it to come up, you remember,
22 Mr. Hlavsa, that you testified about a draft that had comments
23 in the margin with your initials on it.

24 Do you remember that?

25 A. I do.

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Hlavsa - Cross

1 Q. While we are waiting for it to come up, to just use the
2 time productively, the draft with your -- do you recognize that
3 as the first page of Defense Exhibit 209?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. That's one of the documents you were testifying about last
6 week, correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. If we can turn to the page ending in 182, please.

9 It's got at the bottom of the page the number 11 for
10 reference.

11 Again, it looks like it's up on everybody's screen.

12 Just to remind everybody, this is Defense Exhibit 209.
13 It is a draft version of the letter that was ultimately sent
14 from Gerova to the New York Stock Exchange in late January
15 2011.

16 Mr. Hlavsa, directing your attention to the bottom
17 right-hand corner of page 11, what is now at the top of the
18 screen, you see where it says, "The most recent audited
19 financial statements for de Lane Lea, Seymour Pierce,
20 Ticonderoga Securities are attached as exhibit, blank, and,
21 blank, respectively"?

22 A. I do.

23 Q. There is a notation there on the right where it says
24 "deleted." "And others to obtain financial statements from de
25 Lane Lea, Seymour Pierce and Ticonderoga, as well as any other

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Hlavsa - Cross

1 pro forma statements."

2 Do you see that?

3 A. I do.

4 Q. At the time of this draft, Defense Exhibit 209, it was
5 anticipated that you would be providing that information before
6 the final version went to the New York Stock Exchange, correct?

7 A. I'm not sure. I don't know.

8 Q. That's what the comments suggest on its face, right?

9 A. The comment was deleted.

10 Can you repeat the question?

11 Q. Sure.

12 The comment that's deleted, and actually appears in
13 two places, indicates that you and others would be obtaining
14 financial statements for this draft.

15 Do you see that?

16 A. Yes, I do.

17 Q. Let me show you what has been marked for identification as
18 Defense Exhibit 1250.

19 MR. TREMONTE: This document is not in evidence.

20 Your Honor, it's a large document so I have tabbed it
21 for ease of reference.

22 THE COURT: All right.

23 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, take a moment and have a look at that, but
24 please don't read from it, as it is not in evidence.

25 A. OK.

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Hlavsa - Cross

1 Q. You see if you look at the document, at the top of the
2 stack, it's 13 pages.

3 Do you see that?

4 A. I'm sorry. It's what?

5 Q. 13 pages long.

6 A. I see that.

7 Q. It's on Gerova letterhead?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And it's dated January 28, 2011?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. It's similar to the document on its face that you were just
12 looking at, Government Exhibit 589?

13 A. I'll agree with your assurance.

14 Q. Let me bring you 589.

15 A. Can you repeat the question?

16 Q. It appears similar to 589, correct?

17 A. Yes, it does.

18 Q. Do you recognize that document?

19 A. Yes.

20 THE COURT: Which document, Defendant's 1250?

21 MR. TREMONTE: Yes, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Go ahead.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What do you recognize it to be?

25 A. A letter to the New York Stock Exchange dated January 28,

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Hlavsa - Cross

1 2011.

2 Q. It's substantially similar to 589, Government Exhibit 589
3 that you looked a little earlier, except it's got exhibits
4 attached to it, correct?

5 A. I don't know. I mean, it's 13 pages. I'm assuming it's
6 the same letter, but obviously I haven't looked at every page
7 of the letter and compared it.

8 MR. TREMONTE: Your Honor, I move to admit Defense
9 Exhibit 1250 in evidence.

10 THE COURT: Any objection?

11 MS. HECTOR: No objection.

12 THE COURT: Received.

13 (Defendant's Exhibit 1250 received in evidence)

14 BY MR. TREMONTE:

15 Q. If you turn to the last page of the memo that's on top, the
16 page after that you will see there is a tab that says Exhibit

17 A.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. If you turn to the exhibit, just one of the attachments to
20 this letter, you will see there is a document at the top that
21 says "Noble Investment Fund, Ltd.?"

22 A. I do.

23 Q. It's dated October 5, 2009?

24 A. I see that.

25 Q. You see it's addressed to Jason Galanis?

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Hlavsa - Cross

1 A. Yes, it is.

2 Q. If you turn to the fourth page of that document, the
3 signature page. You see there are signature lines?

4 A. There are.

5 Q. Those are signed or appear to be signed?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. One of the signatures is Arie Van Roon?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. That's a name you're familiar with, correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Mr. Van Roon was the president of Noble Investment Fund,
12 Ltd., correct?

13 A. That's what it states here. I don't know that personally.

14 Q. You knew him to be affiliated with Noble, correct?

15 A. Yes, I did.

16 Q. And down below, that's Jason Galanis.

17 Do you recognize that signature?

18 A. I don't.

19 Q. If you turn to the first page of the document. I am just
20 going to ask you to read that first paragraph after "Dear
21 Jason."

22 A. "The following will serve to memorialize -- "

23 THE COURT: It's a long paragraph. It's up on the
24 screen for the jurors.

25 Do you have that, ladies and gentlemen of the jury in

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Hlavsa - Cross

1 the jury box?

2 THE JURY: Yes.

3 THE COURT: You can read it to yourself. I am sure
4 the witness is a more-than-competent reader.

5 MR. TREMONTE: I am going to ask the witness to
6 summarize some of the provisions in there.

7 THE COURT: That's a different question.

8 The jury can read the first paragraph. If that's what
9 you wanted him to read aloud, it's already up on the screen.

10 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, just making our way through that first
11 paragraph, it recites that the document records or memorializes
12 an arrangement between Noble, another entity called Pure Glow,
13 which is listed as the portfolio manager, and then it says,
14 "Such other entities that may be established by Noble, Pure
15 Glow or Van Roon."

16 Do you see that?

17 A. I do.

18 Q. You understood there were various entities affiliated with
19 Noble, Pure Glow and Van Roon, correct?

20 A. I did not.

21 Q. Then down below it indicates, the last sentence of that
22 paragraph, "Noble Pure Glow and such other entities as may at
23 any time afterwards be created by those entities, Noble or Pure
24 Glow or Van Roon, are referenced in the agreements under the
25 defined term."

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Hlavsa - Cross

1 Do you see that?

2 A. I do.

3 Q. Turning to Exhibit D, which starts at numbered page 39131.

4 Do you see that?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. That's a set of financial statements from an entity called
7 Seymour Pierce Holdings, Ltd., right?

8 A. It appears to be, yes.

9 Q. That's a document that you located and provided to be
10 attached to this letter, is that right?

11 A. I do not recall that.

12 Q. Turning your attention to Exhibit E, which is the numbered
13 page ending 39158.

14 A. I have it.

15 Q. That's a financial report from Ticonderoga Securities, LLC,
16 correct?

17 A. Yes, it is.

18 Q. That's a document that you provided to be attached to this
19 letter?

20 A. I do not recall that.

21 Q. You're familiar with Ticonderoga Securities, LLC, right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You were at the time in 2010?

24 A. I'm not sure I was, but certainly about that time.

25 Q. You understand that this was an acquisition target for

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Hlavsa - Cross

1 Gerova, correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. That was also true of Seymour Pierce, correct?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. Around this time it was anticipated that both of these
6 entities would become subsidiaries of Gerova, correct?

7 A. We had some business relationship with them, yes.

8 Q. Then finally turning your attention to Exhibit B, it begins
9 on the page numbered 39116.

10 Do you see this is a memorandum from someone named
11 Luis Mejia?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. It's about, the subject line says, Jason Galanis?

14 A. Yes, it does.

15 Q. I am not going to have you read aloud, but if you could
16 just focus your attention on that first full paragraph
17 beginning, "We understand that GFG."

18 A. I have read it.

19 Q. On the second and final page of the letter -- again,
20 without reading aloud -- I would just like you to focus your
21 attention on the paragraph beginning, "Based on the information
22 and representations you have provided"?

23 A. I have read it.

24 Q. You're aware that the company sought a legal opinion in
25 April of 2010 as to the propriety of Mr. Galanis being an

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Hlavsa - Cross

1 officer of a Gerova subsidiary, correct?

2 A. I was not.

3 MR. TREMONTE: If we could bring up Government Exhibit
4 201, please.

5 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, do you see Government Exhibit 201 on your
6 screen?

7 A. I do.

8 Q. You testified about this document on direct last week,
9 correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Turning to page 62 of the document.

12 I just want to direct your attention to where it says
13 "share ownership."

14 Do you see that?

15 A. I do.

16 Q. It says, "The following table sets forth information known
17 to the company regarding the beneficial ownership of the
18 ordinary shares as of May 24, 2010," correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I believe you testified last week that May 24, 2010 was the
21 last date on which you had obtained information from the
22 Continental stock transfer about the number of shares
23 outstanding, is that right?

24 A. No, that's not correct.

25 Q. What was that the date of?

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Hlavsa - Cross

1 A. It was the date that the information was retrieved from
2 Continental stock. I'm not sure if I did the retrieving of
3 that information or another party did.

4 Q. Fair enough.

5 But the information in this section of the filing,
6 which relates to share ownership, is all with reference to May
7 24, 2010 information, correct?

8 A. I believe that's correct.

9 Q. And this document was submitted to the SEC on or about June
10 2 of 2010, is that correct?

11 A. That's correct.

12 MR. TREMONTE: If we can bring up Government Exhibit
13 201A in evidence.

14 Q. You see Government Exhibit 201A, that's the Form 20-F/A?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. That's another document you testified about last week,
17 correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. If we can turn to the same section of this filing that we
20 just looked at in the Form 20-F.

21 While we are waiting to get there, this document was
22 submitted on or about June 16, 2010, correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Directing your attention to the sentence just under where
25 it says "share ownership," it's the same sentence as in the

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Hlavsa - Cross

1 earlier draft, isn't that correct?

2 A. Yes, it is.

3 Q. It's identical right down to the date, May 24, 2010?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So that indicates that the 20-F/A, which was filed about
6 two weeks after the 20-F, you used information as of the same
7 date regarding the number of shares outstanding, correct?

8 A. I'm not sure I used that information. The document does
9 contain the information with the same date, yes.

10 Q. You signed a certification on this document, correct?

11 A. Yes, I did.

12 Q. And that indicates that you are the person chiefly
13 responsible on the financial side of the company for this
14 document, correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What I am indicating when I say "you" is really the
17 company, but you did have primary responsibility for this,
18 right?

19 A. I was one of the responsible parties, absolutely.

20 Q. So far as you know, no one involved in the preparation of
21 this document, the 20-F/A, went back to Continental to get more
22 recent information about the number of shares outstanding,
23 correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 MR. TREMONTE: If we can bring up Government Exhibit

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Hlavsa - Cross

1 508. I believe that's in evidence.

2 Yes, it is in evidence.

3 Q. You see Government Exhibit 508 in evidence on your screen?

4 A. I do.

5 Q. So let me start at the very top of that chart. You see at
6 the top row on the first page of the chart it says date on the
7 left-hand side.

8 Do you see that?

9 JUROR: It's not on the screen.

10 THE COURT: There it is.

11 Q. So there is a row to the far left that gives you the date,
12 and that's the date of activity in connection with the shares
13 of the company that's recorded by Continental, correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Then the next column, at the top, it says "comments."

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. That's information recorded by Continental about the
18 activity?

19 A. I believe so.

20 Q. Next row at the top it says "common issued."

21 Do you see that?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And that indicates the number of common shares that are
24 either issued, in which case it is a positive number, or taken
25 back, in which case it is negative, correct?

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Hlavsa - Cross

1 A. I believe so, yes.

2 Q. Then the next column at the top it says "authorized".
3 That's the total number of shares that are authorized to be
4 outstanding, right?

5 A. I believe so, yes.

6 Q. Finally on the far left there is a column that says
7 "total".

8 Do you see that?

9 A. It's on the far right.

10 Q. Thank you. Far right.

11 That is a running tally of the total number of shares
12 that are outstanding, correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Again, this is for Gerova Corp.?

15 A. For Gerova Financial Group, yes.

16 Q. Up on that very top entry, the entry dated January 23,
17 2008, the total number of authorized shares is 51 million,
18 right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And that's a number that's authorized by an action of
21 either the shareholder or the board, correct?

22 A. I'm not sure.

23 Q. Continental doesn't authorize the shares, correct?

24 A. Correct. The company.

25 Q. Somehow the company does?

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Hlavsa - Cross

1 A. The company does.

2 Q. If we can go down the page.

3 Let's go to the top of the first page, please.

4 The total number of shares outstanding, you have got
5 51 million authorized, but your actual number of outstanding
6 shares is just 2,500,000, correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And that number increases as things happen. So, for
9 example, on February 19, 2008, your common issued increases to
10 5,704,983, authorized stays the same, and then the total is
11 adjusted to reflect the fact that more shares were issued,
12 right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Now if we go to the bottom of that page. Between the
15 beginning of 2008 and July of 2008, so middle of the summer,
16 the company's total number of outstanding shares is increased
17 to 11,877,333.

18 Do you see that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Let's go to the next page. It picks up at the top and then
21 we will scroll down to the bottom.

22 Each one of these entries is some kind of activity in
23 connection with an issuance, correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So by the time you get to the middle of '09, about a year

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Hlavsa - Cross

1 and a half into the company's existence, at the bottom of the
2 page, you're up to 13.4 million shares outstanding, right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Scrolling to the bottom of the third page, now we are at
5 May 2010, about another year has passed. The company is at
6 13.9 million shares outstanding, right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. The top of the next page, and I think this is the page that
9 you testified about last week, is that right?

10 A. Yes, I did.

11 Q. On May 12, 2010, that's about two or three weeks before the
12 Form 20-F/A is filed, right?

13 A. Yes, it is.

14 Q. The number of shares authorized to be issued by the company
15 increases to 300 million, right?

16 A. That's what it states.

17 Q. That was a sixfold increase over the original
18 authorization, right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Your total stays the same on the 12th, the 13th of that
21 month.

22 Do you see that?

23 A. I'm sorry. The total number?

24 Q. The total number of shares outstanding remains relatively
25 constant, 13,979,000. That number is essentially the same for

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Hlavsa - Cross

1 the 12th and the 13th, correct?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Then on the 14th of May, you have an issuance of

4 123,708,334 shares, correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Your total goes up to over 137 million, correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And those shares were issued in connection with the de-SPAC
9 transactions, right?

10 A. I believe so.

11 Q. Just taking a step back, to be clear on this, the idea
12 behind the de-SPAC initially was the company had 100 some odd
13 million dollars in cash, correct?

14 A. No, it did not.

15 Q. It did not have --

16 A. Prior to the de-SPACing?

17 Q. Prior to the de-SPACing.

18 A. Yes, it did.

19 Q. The idea was it was going to take that cash and acquire
20 assets. That was the initial idea, right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. But that idea changed and eventually the deal that was
23 struck with Stillwater and Weston was that shares were going to
24 be exchanged for the assets, right?

25 A. Correct.

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Hlavsa - Cross

1 Q. And those shares got issued, right?

2 A. I'm not sure they ever got issued, but yes.

3 Q. As reflected here, 123 million, that's in connection with
4 the acquisition of assets, right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Those shares got issued and the draft F-1 registration
7 statements, those were with a view to having them become freely
8 tradeable, correct?

9 A. That was the purpose of the F-1 statement, is to register
10 those shares, yes.

11 Q. But that didn't happen. And the idea was that at the end
12 of the day you would have a situation where the entities that
13 have given up their assets, Stillwater and Weston, would hold
14 freely tradeable shares, right?

15 A. No.

16 Q. At the end of the day, that wasn't the idea?

17 A. At the end of the day, you mean after the shares were
18 registered?

19 Q. Correct.

20 A. I'm not sure the entities would hold the shares or the
21 individuals who made investments in those funds would hold the
22 shares.

23 Q. Understood. But whoever the property interest in the
24 assets would end up having tradeable shares of an equivalent
25 value, right?

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Hlavsa - Cross

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. But again, those shares never became freely tradeable,
3 right?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. Turning back here to the 18th, you have got a little bit of
6 activity, 1100 shares are issued, and that increases the total
7 just a bit.

8 Then on the 24th you have got 2,000 shares negative,
9 and then it goes up a little bit more on that same date.

10 Do you see that?

11 A. Yes, I do.

12 Q. Directing your attention to the date column, you see how
13 the dates are listed chronologically from early to late?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So that it begins on May 12, 2010 and goes forward in time,
16 right?

17 A. Yes, it does.

18 Q. On the eighth column where it as 5/17/10, do you see that?

19 A. I do.

20 Q. There is a notation there in handwriting on the left. It
21 says 5/27/10. Right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. That notation indicates that the 5/17 date is out of
24 chronological order and appears to be a typo, right?

25 A. Yes, it does.

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Hlavsa - Cross

1 Q. And that 5/27 correct date refers to the date when
2 Continental was instructed to issue shares to Shahini, right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And moving down the chart, you have got a little bit of
5 activity on the 1st, the 2nd, and the 3rd, and then on the 7th,
6 there is an indication that 5.3 million shares were retired.

7 Do you see that?

8 A. Yes, I do.

9 Q. Directing your attention to the 20-F and 20-F/A, on those
10 dates, the 20-F and 20-F -- strike that.

11 The 20-F and 20-F/A both indicate that the number of
12 shares outstanding is as of May 24, correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. If you or someone in the finance department had contacted
15 Continental on, let's say, the 2nd of June -- let's say the
16 1st, the day before the 20-F was filed, right, you would have
17 received from Continental information, if you had gotten this
18 document, about the issuance of the 5.3 million shares,
19 correct?

20 A. Yeah. Continental would have provided that information.

21 Q. Then you would have had an accurate understanding of the
22 impact of that issuance on the total number of shares
23 outstanding, correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And if someone from the company had checked with

G9J8HIR1

Hlavsa - Cross

1 Continental on the 7th of June, right before the 20-F/A was
2 filed, they would have seen 5.333 million shares had been
3 retired, correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Those shares were retired, to be clear, in connection with
6 the settlement with Marshall Manley, right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Let me show you what has been marked for identification as
9 Defense Exhibit 1249.

10 MR. TREMONTE: It is not in evidence.

11 A. Thank you.

12 Q. Take a minute to look at that, please.

13 A. OK.

14 Q. You see there is actually a top document of about five
15 pages?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And you see it indicates the author of the document and the
18 date?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. It indicates who the document is going to, correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And then under that top document, there is another very
23 large document.

24 Do you see that?

25 A. Yes.

G9J8HIR1

Hlavsa - Cross

1 Q. Do you recognize the large document that's up on the
2 screen?

3 A. Generally, but not specifically. Yes.

4 Q. You have seen that document before, correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And that document was prepared in connection with the
7 business of the company in the ordinary course?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Turning back to the cover document.

10 Do you see that?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What is that?

13 A. It's an e-mail.

14 Q. Who is it from?

15 A. It's from me.

16 Q. Dated April 5, correct?

17 A. Dated Monday, April 5, 2010.

18 Q. And it refers to that larger document, correct?

19 A. Yes, it does.

20 MR. TREMONTE: I move Defense Exhibit 1249 in
21 evidence.

22 THE COURT: Any objection?

23 MS. HECTOR: No objection.

24 THE COURT: Received.

25 (Defendant's Exhibit 1249 received in evidence)

G9J8HIR1

Hlavsa - Cross

1 BY MR. TREMONTE:

2 Q. All right. So turning to the cover e-mail, you were
3 sending a copy, or you were having a conversation over e-mail
4 with someone named Carolyn D'Alessio, correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Who is Carolyn D'Alessio?

7 A. She was the finance director for Weston Capital Management.

8 Q. What was she looking for?

9 A. It appears as though she was looking for some information
10 about who owned what entities.

11 Q. And you directed her to a document called the proxy,
12 correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And you in fact attached that document to your e-mail?

15 A. I did.

16 Q. And you indicated there at the top, you said, "I always go
17 to EDGAR and look up Geroval."

18 What are you referring to?

19 A. The Securities and Exchange has a system where individuals
20 can go and retrieve documents that have been filed with the
21 Securities and Exchange Commission, and it's in a format that's
22 called EDGAR, and when you file a document it's EDGARized,
23 which means --

24 THE COURT: EDGARized?

25 THE WITNESS: EDGARized. It's a brand-new SEC term.

G9J8HIR1

Hlavsa - Cross

1 A. It makes it easier for individuals to retrieve the actual
2 documents. They are SEC's database.

3 Q. So if the company prepares a document and submits it to the
4 SEC, it gets EDGARized and then posted on the Web?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. At least if it's a public filing?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. As far as you know, the EDGAR site is accessible to the
9 general public?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. You don't have to have permission from the SEC to look
12 things up?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Directing your attention then to the first page of the
15 attached proxy. Do you have an understanding of what a proxy
16 statement is?

17 A. General understanding, yes.

18 Q. What is that?

19 A. It's an informational document that's provided to the
20 shareholders with respect to a decision they have to make
21 regarding the company. And inside the document it is supposed
22 to disclose all of the information that is the shareholder
23 would need to make an intelligent decision with respect to a
24 vote that is going to occur.

25 Q. Not all company decisions are obviously put to a vote,

G9J8HIR1

Hlavsa - Cross

1 correct?

2 A. Right.

3 Q. But some bigger ones are put to the shareholders as a
4 whole, correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And when that happens, the company prepares a document like
7 this, right, to assist shareholders in making a decision?
8 Right?

9 A. Yes. That's my understanding.

10 Q. And this particular proxy concerned the upcoming
11 shareholder vote as to various acquisitions, right?

12 A. Yes, it does.

13 Q. The document is dated January 19, 2010.

14 Do you see that?

15 A. I do.

16 Q. It begins by addressing the shareholders and inviting them
17 to a meeting, correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And it tells the shareholders what they are going to be
20 asked to consider and vote on, right?

21 A. Yes, it does.

22 Q. The meeting referred to in this proxy was the shareholder
23 vote on whether or not to acquire the entities Amalphis,
24 Stillwater -- I'm sorry, the assets and entities Amalphis,
25 Stillwater and Weston, correct?

G9J8HIR1

Hlavsa - Cross

1 A. Yes, it appears that way.

2 Q. There was a vote, correct?

3 A. Yes, there was.

4 Q. The shareholders voted in favor of acquiring what this
5 document indicates are \$650 million worth of assets, right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. In connection with the de-SPAC, the company ended up having
8 a lot less cash than it started with, correct?

9 A. Yes, it did.

10 Q. That's because the company ended up buying a bunch of
11 shares from shareholders who were proposing to vote no,
12 correct?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. Directing your attention down to page 174 of this document,
15 it's the numbered page that ends in GFG 2287, all the way
16 towards the back.

17 A. I have it.

18 Q. Directing your attention down to the bottom where it says
19 "director and executive officer compensation."

20 Do you see that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do you see that discusses the stock purchase and management
23 agreement with Marshall Manley?

24 A. It does.

25 Q. You testified about that last week.

G9J8HIR1

Hlavsa - Cross

1 Do you see it says, "Mr. Manley has been assisting us
2 since November 2009 in our negotiations of certain proposed
3 acquisitions described in this proxy statement?"

4 A. I see that.

5 Q. That's consistent with your understanding of his role?

6 A. I don't know when he started assisting the company. I have
7 no personal knowledge of that.

8 Q. No reason to believe this information is wrong, correct?

9 A. I have no reason to believe that.

10 Q. Directing your attention towards the bottom of page where
11 it says "shares eligible for future sales."

12 Do you see that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. This is a discussion of precisely what the heading says,
15 correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. The first sentence says, "As of today's date, we have 14
18 million ordinary shares outstanding."

19 Do you see that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. That's consistent with what we saw in the Continental
22 document we were just looking at, right?

23 A. I believe so.

24 Q. It says, "Of these shares, the 11,500,000 shares sold in
25 our initial public offering."

G9J8HIR1

Hlavsa - Cross

1 Do you see that?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. There were certain shares that were sold in the IPO,
4 correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. It indicates here that all of those 11,500,000 shares are
7 freely tradeable without restriction.

8 Do you see that?

9 A. Yes, I see that.

10 MR. TREMONTE: You can take down 1259.

11 May I have a minute, your Honor?

12 THE COURT: You may.

13 (Pause)

14 MR. TREMONTE: Some of my copies are missing, but we
15 still have them electronically.

16 Can we bring up 810, Defense Exhibit 810, please.

17 Your Honor, I offer Defense Exhibit 810. It is
18 subject to a stipulation that has not been read.

19 THE COURT: Any objection?

20 MS. HECTOR: No objection.

21 THE COURT: Received.

22 (Defendant's Exhibit 810 received in evidence)

23 BY MR. TREMONTE:

24 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, you see on the screen in front of you, you have
25 got the first page of Defense Exhibit 810?

G9J8HIR1

Hlavsa - Cross

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. The first page is an e-mail at the top from Shant Chalian.
3 That's the lawyer from Hodgson Russ, correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. It's dated July 19, 2010.

6 Do you see that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. It's addressed to several individuals, including yourself,
9 correct?

10 A. Yes, it is.

11 Q. It's cc'd to Weiss and Eric Pinero, who are also lawyers at
12 Hodgson Russ, right?

13 A. They are.

14 Q. As you can see from the body of the text of that e-mail,
15 the e-mail is attaching a draft of the F-1 registration
16 statement, correct?

17 A. Yes, it is.

18 Q. Again, that's a document, one of the documents you were
19 just testifying about, that's a document that was planned to be
20 filed with the SEC to register certain shares of the company,
21 right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. All right. I would like to direct your attention to a
24 couple of pages into the first page of the draft, the attached
25 draft.

G9J8HIR1

Hlavsa - Cross

1 You see up at the top it says, "As filed with the
2 Securities and Exchange Commission on July, blank, 2010"?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So it was anticipated that the draft would be filed in
5 July, correct?

6 A. It appears that way.

7 Q. Then directing your attention to page 78 of that document.
8 There is a section of this draft called Security Ownership of
9 Certain Beneficial Owners and Management, right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. We have looked at a couple different versions of this, I
12 think, in the 20-F and the 20-F/A of Geroval from June 2010
13 correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. We also looked at a similar section of a public filing from
16 Fund.com, correct? You testified about the Fund.com document
17 that listed Ymer Shahini as a beneficial owner of certain
18 shares of Fund.com back in 2008?

19 MS. HECTOR: Objection, your Honor. It misstates the
20 testimony. I think the document --

21 THE COURT: Why don't you rephrase the question, Mr.
22 Tremonte.

23 Q. Do you remember testifying about a similar section of a
24 Fund.com public filing from '08?

25 A. I do recall from last week that was a similar section in a

G9J8HIR1

Hlavsa - Cross

1 Fund.com document, yes.

2 Q. The idea with this section of the draft F-1 is the same, I
3 take it, that there is an obligation on the part of the company
4 to disclose information about shareholdings of officers and
5 directors, correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And also of individuals who have more than 5 percent of
8 the -- who are beneficial owners of more than 5 percent of the
9 company's shares, right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Just looking at that page, it doesn't say anything in there
12 about Ymer Shahini, correct?

13 A. It does not.

14 Q. Turning to the next page, the footnote continued to run
15 down the bulk of that page.

16 Do you see that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Actually, I don't know if it's a footnote. The numbered
19 notes from the beneficial ownership chart, correct?

20 A. Those are the notes that explain the numbers on the
21 beneficial ownership chart, yes.

22 Q. And there is nothing in there about Ymer Shahini, right?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. Then in the next section, which is titled, Certain
25 Relationships and Related Party Transactions.

G9J8HIR1

Hlavsa - Cross

1 Do you see that?

2 A. I do.

3 Q. Do you have an understanding what related party
4 transactions are?

5 A. Generally, yes.

6 Q. What are they?

7 A. Those are -- it's a relationship between either two
8 companies or individuals that share some common directors or
9 common ownership or common officers.

10 Q. I will let you have a look at that.

11 The bottom part of that page, which is the beginning
12 of that section, and if you turn to the next page, it continues
13 on page 80 of the document.

14 Do you see that?

15 A. Not yet.

16 Yes.

17 Q. Let me give you a hard copy just to make it easier to
18 scroll.

19 MR. TREMONTE: Your Honor, I have a tab on that page
20 of the document.

21 THE COURT: Thank you.

22 Q. Have a look at that.

23 My question is, is there anything in there, in that
24 section of this draft F-1 statement, about Ymer Shahini?

25 A. There is not.

G9J8HIR1

Hlavsa - Cross

1 MR. TREMONTE: If you can bring up Defense Exhibit
2 811, please.

3 Your Honor, I am going to hand the witness a hard
4 copy, again, with a tab.

5 THE COURT: Thank you.

6 MR. TREMONTE: Your Honor, Defense Exhibit 11 is
7 subject to a stipulation.

8 I offer it in evidence.

9 MS. HECTOR: No objection. I think it's 811. Mr.
10 Tremonte just said 11.

11 THE COURT: It's Defendant's 811. Received into
12 evidence.

13 (Defendant's Exhibit 811 received in evidence)

14 BY MR. TREMONTE:

15 Q. Again, you see the first page of the document?

16 A. I do.

17 Q. That is, again, one of the lawyers from Hodgson Russ, Shant
18 Chalian, circulating a draft of the F-1?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. That's just a couple of days later on July 27, correct?

21 A. Eight days later, yes.

22 Q. Thank you.

23 Turning then to the first page of the draft F-1.

24 Directing your attention to the top of the page, it
25 says, "As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on

G9J8HIR1

Hlavsa - Cross

1 July 30, 2010."

2 Do you see that?

3 A. Yes, I do.

4 Q. It was not filed on July 30, correct?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. So that was what was anticipated, but it didn't happen,
7 right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I am going to direct your attention first to the section of
10 the document dealing with beneficial share ownership.

11 A. I have it.

12 (Continued on next page)

G9JOHIR2

Cross - Mr. Hlavsa

1 BY MR. TREMONTE:

2 Q. I'm going to ask you to look through the hard copy
3 document. Is there any reference to Shahini in that section?

4 A. There is not.

5 Q. If you could take a moment and look at the following
6 section, which I believe as an earlier draft discusses related
7 party transactions. I'm sorry. Certain relationships and
8 related party transactions.

9 A. Could you repeat the question?

10 Q. Yes, I can. Directing your attention to the section of the
11 document draft called "Certain relationships and related party
12 transactions", is there any reference to Shahini in there?

13 A. There is not.

14 MR. TREMONTE: If we could bring up Government's
15 Exhibit 602 in evidence. Your Honor, I believe there are two
16 versions of this. May I just take one moment?

17 THE COURT: You may.

18 (Pause)

19 MR. TREMONTE: Thank you for your patience.

20 Could we go to the first page of the document?

21 Q. Do you see the first page of Defendant's Exhibit 602 on
22 your screen?

23 A. I do.

24 Q. There's an indication just under the evidence sticker that
25 it's an internal draft dated January 24th, 2011. Do you see

G9JOHIR2

Cross - Mr. Hlavsa

1 that?

2 A. I do.

3 Q. Again, you have that same indication "as filed with the
4 Securities and Exchange Commission" and the date is left blank,
5 right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. So this is a subsequent draft to the ones that you just
8 looked at, right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Same F-1, it's the same type of filing, correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. I'm going to direct your attention to the section of the
13 document that deals with related party transactions. I'm
14 sorry, strike that.

15 I'd like to direct your attention to the section of
16 the document that deals with beneficial ownership of the
17 company's shares. Do you see that among the beneficial owners
18 listed on this draft is Jason Galanis, correct?

19 A. Yes, I see that.

20 Q. And there's a number next to the name Jason Galanis, right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. That indicates that there's additional information next to
23 number 6, right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. If we can move forward to that. Have a look at that

G9JOHIR2

Cross - Mr. Hlavsa

1 section under 6.

2 A. Can you blow it up, please?

3 Q. I'm sorry. I don't have a hard copy for you.

4 A. All right.

5 Q. Do you see that paragraph references Shahini, correct?

6 A. Yes, part way through. I haven't finished reading it yet,
7 but I see Shahini's name two-thirds of the way down.

8 Q. I'm sorry.

9 (Pause)

10 A. Okay, I'm finished reading it.

11 Q. Okay. If we could turn to the next section. You see
12 again, as in the prior drafts, there's a section entitled
13 "Certain relationships and related party transactions", right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. If you turn to the next page. Directing your attention to
16 the paragraph at the bottom of the page in March, 2010. Do you
17 see that? We'll magnify it for you. Take a moment to read
18 that paragraph, please.

19 (Pause)

20 A. I've read it.

21 Q. Do you see there's a reference in that paragraph, as well,
22 to Shahini?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. That paragraph generally describes a related party
25 transaction with Jason Galanis, correct?

G9JOHIR2

Cross - Mr. Hlavsa

1 A. Yes, it does.

2 Q. In connection with that related party transaction, there is
3 an issuance of a warrant to Mr. Galanis, correct?

4 A. That's what it says.

5 Q. The terms here suggest that it's essentially the warrant
6 that you testified earlier about when you were testifying about
7 the warrant agreement, correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. This paragraph indicates generally, doesn't it, that the
10 warrant was issued in lieu of the payment of a fee owed to
11 Mr. Galanis for facilitating certain transactions, right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Those transactions include the Wimbledon Funds and
14 opportunity to acquire Seymour Pierce; is that right?

15 A. It states that, yes.

16 Q. You're familiar with the proposed Seymour Pierce
17 transaction, right?

18 A. Generally, yes.

19 Q. You're aware that Mr. Galanis did, in fact, facilitate an
20 introduction to Keith Harris, right?

21 A. I am not.

22 Q. Let me show you a document to see if it refreshes your
23 recollection.

24 MR. TREMONTE: Your Honor, I'm going to show the
25 witness what's been marked for identification as Defendant's

G9JOHIR2

Cross - Mr. Hlavsa

1 Trial Exhibit 1253.

2 THE COURT: How are you doing on time, Mr. Tremonte?

3 MR. TREMONTE: I'm coming to the end of my -- a couple
4 more topics, no more huge documents.

5 THE COURT: Can you give me an estimate on time?

6 MR. TREMONTE: Half an hour to 40 minutes.

7 THE COURT: What was the estimate on Friday?

8 MR. TREMONTE: I was hoping on Friday to get it all
9 done within two hours.

10 THE COURT: Go ahead.

11 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, have a look at that document. Please don't
12 read from it, it's not in evidence, just see if it refreshes
13 your recollection that Mr. Galanis made an introduction with
14 Keith Harris.

15 A. It does.

16 Q. Back in as early as 2008, isn't it true that Mr. Galanis
17 was presenting information about Mr. Harris and a Seymour
18 Pierce opportunity to Geroval?

19 A. It appears that way.

20 Q. I want to direct your attention to Government's Exhibit 520
21 in evidence. Actually, I can skip over that in the interest of
22 saving some time.

23 Let me show you Government's Exhibit 554 in evidence.
24 You see 554 up on the screen?

25 A. I do.

G9JOHIR2

Cross - Mr. Hlavsa

1 Q. That's a letter from Steve Weiss, who is a lawyer at -- I'm
2 sorry -- it's an email from Steve Weiss, who is a lawyer at
3 Hodgson Russ, correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. It is addressed to various individuals at the New York
6 Stock Exchange, correct?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And it attaches a document. Do you see that, that PDF?

9 A. Yes, I see the addendum.

10 Q. Turning to the first page of the attachment, that's an
11 April 23rd letter to the New York Stock Exchange, correct?

12 A. Yes, it is.

13 Q. That's a letter that the company sent responding to various
14 questions that the Stock Exchange had about things that were
15 happening to the company, correct?

16 A. I believe so.

17 Q. Let me show you what's been marked for identification as
18 Defendant's Exhibit 1254.

19 MR. TREMONTE: You can show that to the witness,
20 please.

21 Q. Do you see the document 1254 in front of you?

22 A. I do.

23 Q. You see that it's an email, correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Do you see who it's from?

G9JOHIR2

Cross - Mr. Hlavsa

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Do you see that it's to, among others, yourself?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Do you see the date and what it concerns?

5 A. I do.

6 Q. It concerns an earlier version of the document you were
7 just looking at, correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 MR. TREMONTE: I offer this in evidence, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Any objection?

11 MS. HECTOR: No objection, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: It's received.

13 (Defendant's Exhibit 1254 received in evidence)

14 THE COURT: We'll take our mid-morning break.

15 Ladies and gentlemen, please do not discuss the case
16 among yourselves or with anyone. Keep an open mind, there's
17 more to come. See you in a few minutes.

18 (Recess)

19 (Continued on next page)

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G9JOHIR2

Cross - Mr. Hlavsa

1 (Jury not present)

2 THE COURT: I wanted to make sure that parties are
3 aware of document 267 and 268 and 269, which is a motion to
4 quash filed on behalf of Luis Mejia, and if anyone wishes to be
5 heard on that, they should file a response as soon as possible.

6 MR. TREMONTE: Your Honor, the document has come into
7 evidence, the letter that Mr. Mejia prepared, so I think we're
8 going to withdraw our subpoena.

9 THE WITNESS: May I mark this as subpoena withdrawn,
10 motion moot?

11 MR. TREMONTE: Yes, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: That's what I'll do. Thank you.

13 Bring our jury in, please.

14 (Continued on next page)

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G9JOHIR2

Cross - Mr. Hlavsa

1 (Jury present)

2 THE COURT: Mr. Tremonte, you may continue.

3 MR. TREMONTE: Thank you, your Honor.

4 If you could bring the exhibit back up, please.

5 BY MR. TREMONTE:

6 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, do you see Defendant's Exhibit 1254 in evidence
7 on the screen in front of you?

8 A. I do.

9 Q. You see this is an email from Steve Weiss at Hodgson Russ
10 to several people, including yourself and Gary Hirst, correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. The subject of the email is a scan from a Xerox Work
13 Center. Do you see that?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. That indicates that Steve Weiss is forwarding around
16 something that's been scanned, right?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. It says, "Attached is a PDF version of the proposed
19 submission by Gerova to the NYSE Amex," right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Let's turn to the attached. That's a draft of the letter
22 that you just saw in file form, correct, to the New York Stock
23 Exchange?

24 A. I believe so. I don't know. It doesn't say "draft" on it.

25 Q. But the fact that Steve Weiss is sending it around the day

G9JOHIR2

Cross - Mr. Hlavsa

1 before and calls it a proposed submission suggests that it's
2 the earlier version of the document that he's sent around
3 later, correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Turn to the last page, the signature page. See there's a
6 signature line for Gary Hirst, correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And there's a signature above it?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. That appears to be an electronic signature, correct?

11 A. I would agree that that would be an electronic signature,
12 yes.

13 Q. Isn't it true that Mr. Hirst specifically told you and the
14 other recipients of this email that that wasn't his signature
15 and he had not approved that document?

16 A. I do not recall that.

17 Q. Let me show you what's marked for identification as
18 Defendant's Exhibit 809.

19 A. Thank you.

20 Q. Have you had a chance to read it? Don't read from it.

21 THE COURT: When Mr. Tremonte says that, what he means
22 is don't read it aloud. You're not objecting to his looking at
23 the words.

24 MR. TREMONTE: No. To the contrary, your Honor, I'm
25 urging him to read this.

G9JOHIR2

Cross - Mr. Hlavsa

1 THE COURT: All right.

2 (Pause)

3 A. I read it.

4 Q. Does that refresh your recollection that Mr. Hirst
5 specifically told you and others that he had not signed the
6 document and he had not approved it?

7 A. Well, I don't recall seeing this email. It certainly
8 indicates --

9 MS. HECTOR: Objection.

10 THE COURT: Sir, Mr. Hlavsa, remember what we said
11 about documents for refreshing your recollection? You look at
12 the document, you read it, you turn it face over then, and you
13 think to yourself, do I have a new and refreshed recollection?
14 If you do, you should tell the jury. If you don't, you don't.

15 So the example I gave is, you know, 1986, the Mets won
16 the World Series. If somebody asked you do you recall the date
17 they won, and you said you didn't, and they gave you the Daily
18 News for the next morning, it looks like the Daily News, but
19 the question of whether or not seeing that front page headline
20 from the Daily News with the date on it refreshes your
21 recollection of the date it occurred is a different story. You
22 might look at it, you might say, well, that's interesting. It
23 looks like a real copy of the Daily News, or you may look at it
24 and you may say, you know, that was my nephew's birthday. I
25 remember that now. Now that I see it, it brings it back. We

G9JOHIR2

Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 were having birthday cake for his birthday, and the Mets won
2 Game 7, they won the World Series. So that's what it's about.

3 The document is not in evidence. All right? And the
4 question you're being asked is, looking at it, does it refresh
5 your recollection? Do you understand?

6 THE WITNESS: I understand.

7 THE COURT: Okay, thank you. That's what we meant --
8 remember a second ago when Mr. Tremonte said, "Don't read from
9 the document," and then I said, "Don't read aloud from the
10 document." The document is not in evidence. Understood?

11 THE WITNESS: I understand.

12 THE COURT: Okay.

13 A. Can you repeat the question?

14 Q. Yes, I can. Does looking at that document refresh your
15 recollection that Mr. Hirst specifically told you and the other
16 recipients of this email that he had neither signed nor
17 approved that document?

18 A. It does not.

19 Q. Thank you.

20 MR. TREMONTE: No further questions, your Honor.

21 THE COURT: You may redirect.

22 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY MS. HECTOR:

24 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Hlavsa.

25 A. Good afternoon.

G9JOHIR2

Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, I'm asking you to recall during Mr. Tremonte's
2 cross examination last week, do you recall being asked a
3 question about whether you had any concerns regarding your
4 qualifications to serve as the CFO of Gerova? Do you recall
5 that?

6 A. I do.

7 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, you responded to that question that you did
8 have some concerns, correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Isn't it true that your concerns were related to the fact
11 that you didn't have prior experience in the insurance
12 industry? Is that accurate?

13 A. Yes, it is.

14 Q. Did you have any doubt as to your qualifications or
15 competence to understand the financials of a public company?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Did you have any doubt as to your competence or
18 qualifications to handle financial reporting obligations for a
19 public company?

20 A. No.

21 Q. In fact, isn't that what you've been doing for the majority
22 of your professional career?

23 A. Yes.

24 MS. HECTOR: Ms. Sheinwald, could we pull up
25 Government's Exhibit 250?

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Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, I'm bringing you back to the consulting
2 agreement that we discussed during your direct, and also during
3 your cross examination. I want to turn you back to the meeting
4 at Hodgson Russ' offices in June, 2010 when you first received
5 this document from Mr. Weiss. Do you recall testifying about
6 that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You testified that after receiving this document, you
9 telephoned Mr. Gary Hirst. Do you recall that?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You testified that you asked Mr. Hirst whether, in fact,
12 this document was legitimate. Do you recall that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I also asked you at that time whether you recall asking
15 Mr. Hirst whether Mr. Shahini had actually performed the
16 services described. Do you recall me asking you that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I believe that during your direct testimony you said that
19 you couldn't recall at that time. Do you recall that?

20 MR. TREMONTE: Objection, your Honor. All asked and
21 answered.

22 THE COURT: I'll allow it. Redirect. You have to
23 point the witness to where you're headed. Go ahead.

24 Q. Do you recall, Mr. Hlavsa, that you said you couldn't
25 recall at the time you were testifying whether you had asked

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Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 Mr. Hirst if Mr. Shahini had, in fact, provided those services?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you recall testifying at a deposition before the SEC
4 related to these matters?

5 A. I do.

6 Q. Do you recall that was back in the Summer of 2015?

7 MR. TREMONTE: Objection, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Overruled.

9 Q. Do you recall that that was back in the Summer of 2015?

10 A. Yes.

11 MS. HECTOR: May I approach, your Honor?

12 THE COURT: You may.

13 MS. HECTOR: I'm just handing the witness what's
14 marked as 35081.

15 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, I'd like to turn your attention, if you could,
16 looking at that document, to page 77, and if you could just
17 read to yourself lines 6 through 15.

18 A. I have.

19 Q. Putting that document down, does that refresh your
20 recollection as to whether Mr. Hirst told you that Mr. Shahini
21 had, in fact, performed those services?

22 A. It does.

23 Q. And what is your refreshed recollection?

24 A. That he had, in fact, indicated to me that Ymer Shahini had
25 performed those services.

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Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 MS. HECTOR: Ms. Sheinwald, could we call up
2 Government's Exhibit 609?

3 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, if you could just turn your attention to this
4 document. When is this email dated?

5 A. August 4th, 2010.

6 Q. And it's from you to whom?

7 A. Joe Bianco.

8 Q. What is the subject line?

9 A. "Weston Consulting Agreement".

10 Q. So this email is dated prior to September, 2010 when you
11 testified that you had first become aware of the Shahini
12 warrant agreement, correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. If you see, you mentioned to Mr. Bianco, "I recall that it
15 was trying to be settled for stock but not sure if it ever
16 was." Do you see that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. In your mind, is there a difference between the phrase
19 "settled for stock" and a warrant agreement?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What is the difference, in your mind?

22 A. A warrant is a right to buy a share of stock at a certain
23 price for a certain period of time. Stock is actually the
24 issuance of shares at that time.

25 Q. Do you recall that the warrant agreement that we've been

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Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 discussing in this case, Government's Exhibit 251, is dated
2 March 29th, 2010? The warrant agreement that we've been
3 discussing in this case, do you recall that that's dated
4 March 29th, 2010?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Does the date on that warrant agreement at least suggest
7 that it was entered into before the date of this email?

8 A. Yes.

9 MS. HECTOR: Now can we call up Government's
10 Exhibit 251, the warrant agreement?

11 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, we spent some time on this agreement during
12 your direct examination. Do you recall that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Mr. Tremonte asked you some questions about this document
15 during cross examination. Do you recall that?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. In particular, Mr. Tremonte asked you questions about the
18 valuation of warrants that could be traded on a public
19 exchange. Do you remember that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. He asked you about a valuation methodology called, I
22 believe it was Black-Scholes. Do you recall that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. To be clear, the warrants that are provided to Mr. Shahini
25 under the terms of this agreement, were they freely tradeable

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Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 on an exchange?

2 A. They were not.

3 Q. Could Mr. Shahini go out and sell those warrants on the
4 Amex as a result of this agreement?

5 A. No.

6 Q. In fact, Mr. Shahini, under the terms of this agreement, is
7 not given publicly traded warrants, correct?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Now, you testified that you undertook a valuation of these
10 warrants from an accounting perspective, correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 MS. HECTOR: That was, I believe, Government's
13 Exhibit 245B, if we could pull that up for a moment.

14 Q. Is this part of that calculation that you had undertaken as
15 a result of becoming apprised of the warrant agreement in
16 September of 2010?

17 A. Yes.

18 MS. HECTOR: If we could turn to page 2 of that
19 document.

20 Q. What was your conclusion of how the warrant agreement
21 needed to be valued on Gerova's books and records?

22 MR. TREMONTE: Objection. Repeats his direct
23 testimony.

24 THE COURT: I'll allow it.

25 A. Gerova's books and records needed an additional \$752,000 in

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Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 expense to properly record the transaction.

2 Q. So fair to say that, in your opinion, having looked at the
3 warrant agreement, there was an extra, approximately, \$750,000
4 cost that needed to be attributed to the books and records as a
5 result of the warrant agreement, correct?

6 MR. TREMONTE: Objection.

7 THE COURT: Overruled. Do you understand the
8 question?

9 THE WITNESS: Yes.

10 THE COURT: You may answer.

11 THE WITNESS: Can you repeat the question, please?

12 Q. I'm sorry. As a result of your calculation of the cost of
13 the warrant agreement, from an accounting perspective, you
14 concluded that the cost was an additional, approximately,
15 \$750,000 over the \$2.28 million that was the value of the
16 consulting agreement itself, correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Turning back to Government's Exhibit 251, if we could for a
19 moment. If you recall, Mr. Tremonte asked you a series of
20 questions regarding the value of this agreement as of
21 March 29th, 2010, correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I believe that during those questions, Mr. Tremonte
24 suggested that the value was essentially zero. Do you recall
25 that?

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Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 MR. TREMONTE: Objection.

2 THE COURT: Rephrase that, please.

3 Q. Mr. Tremonte asked you a series of questions about the
4 value of the warrant agreement as of March 29th, 2010, correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. During that questioning, Mr. Tremonte suggested that the
7 value was zero, correct?

8 MR. TREMONTE: Same objection, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Overruled.

10 Ladies and gentlemen, it's your recollection that
11 controls. If there's any variance between a witness's
12 recollection or a recollection expressed in a question and what
13 you recall the testimony to be, it's your recollection of the
14 testimony that controls.

15 Go ahead.

16 A. Okay. My recollection is that he stated that the value of
17 the warrants could be zero, or they could be another value,
18 depending on the stock price.

19 Q. So a warrant, in general, is the right to purchase stock at
20 some future point, correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So the holder of the warrant is hoping or betting that the
23 stock is going to go up, right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Mr. Tremonte asked you questions about the value of

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Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 Gerova's stock price as of March 29th, 2010. Do you remember
2 that?

3 A. Yes.

4 MS. HECTOR: If we could pull up Government's
5 Exhibit 900 for a moment, page 6. If we could look at
6 March 29th, 2010 at the top of this page.

7 Q. What does this document state is the value of Gerova stock
8 on that day?

9 A. \$5.76.

10 Q. Let's look down at what the stock price was valued by
11 May 27th, 2010, a little bit later that year, couple months
12 later. What is the value on May 27th?

13 A. \$13.56.

14 Q. Is it fair to say there's a large increase in the stock
15 price between March 29th, 2010 and May 27th, 2010, right?

16 A. Yes.

17 MS. HECTOR: Let's turn back to Government's
18 Exhibit 251 for a moment.

19 Q. If, for instance, this agreement wasn't entered into on
20 March 29th, but on May 27th, the value of the warrants at that
21 time would actually be extremely high, correct?

22 MR. TREMONTE: Objection, speculation.

23 THE COURT: Do you understand the question?

24 THE WITNESS: Yes.

25 THE COURT: You may answer it.

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Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 THE WITNESS: Yes.

2 Q. On May 27th, and if you could just bear with my math,
3 5,333,333 shares of Gerova stock would be worth over
4 \$70 million, correct?

5 A. I think I testified it was \$65 million.

6 Q. Okay. And that was your estimate of the math at that time
7 on the stand, correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 MS. HECTOR: If could we pull up Defendant's
10 Exhibit 114, Ms. Sheinwald?

11 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, during your cross examination, you were asked
12 some questions about this document. Do you recall that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Let's look at the second page of this document. Do you see
15 the paragraph up towards the top of the screen that starts "as
16 previously disclosed" all the way down through C? Do you see
17 that?

18 A. I do.

19 Q. This document references Gerova's January 16th, 2008
20 warrant agreement. Do you see that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. The warrant covered by that January 16th, 2008 agreement,
23 are those publicly trading warrants?

24 A. Yes, those would be the warrants that are publicly traded.

25 Q. That warrant agreement, the January 16th, 2008 warrant

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Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 agreement, that is different from the warrant agreement we were
2 just discussing, the private warrant agreement with
3 Mr. Shahini, correct?

4 A. Yes, it is.

5 Q. Looking down, it looks like there's a change to the strike
6 price on the January 16th, 2008 warrant. Do you see that?

7 A. Yes, I do.

8 Q. But does that change to the strike price have any affect
9 whatsoever on the strike price in Mr. Shahini's private warrant
10 agreement?

11 A. In my opinion, I don't think so.

12 MS. HECTOR: Could we look at Defendant's Exhibit 800?

13 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, do you recall during cross examination that you
14 were asked some questions about this document?

15 A. Yes, I do.

16 Q. This is a Form 8-K for a separate company, not Gerova,
17 right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. A company called Fund.com, right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. When did you become the CFO of Fund.com?

22 A. As I previously testified, I agreed to be the CFO in
23 November of 2007, but actually took the position on March 1st,
24 2008.

25 Q. So you didn't actually start performing that role until

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Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 March, 2008?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Did you draft this document?

4 A. I did not.

5 Q. Do you have any recollection of having reviewed this
6 document prior to preparing for your testimony in this trial?

7 A. I do not.

8 MS. HECTOR: If we could turn to page 30 of this
9 document. Thank you.

10 Q. Whose signature is on this document?

11 A. A gentleman by the name of Daniel Klaus.

12 Q. That's not your signature, is it?

13 A. Correct, it's not.

14 Q. When is this document dated?

15 A. January 17th, 2008.

16 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, do you know of someone named Monet Berger?

17 A. I do.

18 Q. Who is she?

19 A. Jason Galanis' wife.

20 MR. TREMONTE: Objection, relevance.

21 THE COURT: Sustained. Stricken.

22 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, do you still have Defendant's Exhibit 1249 up
23 at the witness stand with you? This is a document that we just
24 received today so it's not in my system.

25 A. I do.

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Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 Q. Do you recall during the cross examination just a little
2 earlier this morning you were asked some questions about this
3 document?

4 A. I do.

5 MS. HECTOR: Your Honor, may I pull out the ELMO and
6 try to put this on the ELMO, since we just received it?

7 THE COURT: You may.

8 MS. HECTOR: Your Honor, may I approach? Because I
9 wrote on the document that I was handed, so I'd like to use the
10 witness' version.

11 THE COURT: You may.

12 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, there's an extra copy here, too, so I can hand
13 it to you if you have trouble reading it on the ELMO. Let me
14 see if I can make this work.

15 Just looking at the cover email here, this is the
16 document you were asked some questions about Edgar by
17 Mr. Tremonte. Do you remember that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Attached to this cover email is a proxy statement, correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Mr. Tremonte showed you a specific page in this proxy
22 statement that I think is page 181. I'm just going to put that
23 on the ELMO and focus your attention down here on the last
24 paragraph of page 181. I just want to point your attention to
25 the second sentence there after, "As of the date hereof, we

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Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 have 14 million ordinary shares outstanding," and Mr. Tremonte
2 asked you then to read the next sentence. "Of these shares,
3 the 11,500,000 shares sold in your initial public offering are
4 freely tradeable without restriction," and Mr. Tremonte stopped
5 there. Do you recall that?

6 A. Yes, I do.

7 Q. But isn't it a fact that the rest of that sentence offers
8 an exception to that, and it says, "Without restriction on
9 further registration under the Securities Act, except for any
10 shares held by any of our affiliates within the meaning of Rule
11 144 of the Securities Act." Do you see that?

12 A. I do.

13 Q. It is certainly not the case that all 11,500,000 shares are
14 freely tradeable without restriction, correct?

15 MR. TREMONTE: Objection, your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Basis?

17 MR. TREMONTE: Ms. Hector is drawing a conclusion that
18 can't be drawn from the sentence she just read.

19 THE COURT: I think it's a question. Let's hear the
20 answer.

21 Q. So it is not the case is it --

22 MS. HECTOR: I'm sorry. Shall I repeat?

23 THE COURT: Yes.

24 Q. So it is not the case, is it, that all 11,500,000 shares
25 here are necessarily freely tradeable without restriction, is

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Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 it?

2 MR. TREMONTE: Same objection.

3 THE COURT: Overruled.

4 THE WITNESS: It appears not.

5 MS. HECTOR: Ms. Sheinwald, could you pull up
6 Defendant's Exhibit 307?

7 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, can you read aloud the first three sentences of
8 this letter?

9 A. "There are currently 7,906,456 ordinary shares of Gerova
10 Financial Group, Ltd. that are being held by you in the account
11 entitled "Deliveries (forward contracts)". This letter
12 instructs and authorizes you to transfer an aggregate of
13 6,891,000 of those shares to the entities and in the
14 denominations indicated on Schedule I annexed hereto. These
15 previously issued shares were previously registered, but should
16 now be transferred as "restricted shares"."

17 MS. HECTOR: If we can minimize that call-out for a
18 moment.

19 Q. Who is this letter to?

20 A. Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company.

21 Q. Does it appear from the section you just read that this
22 letter is instructing -- does this letter state, from the first
23 paragraph that you just read, that this letter is authorizing
24 the transfer of certain shares that are currently already held
25 in an account by Continental to certain entities in an attached

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Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 schedule? Is that fair?

2 A. Yes, I believe that's fair.

3 MR. TREMONTE: Objection, form.

4 THE WITNESS: Sorry.

5 THE COURT: Speak up. I heard the word "objection".
6 That's all I heard.

7 MR. TREMONTE: I'm sorry, your Honor. Objection,
8 form.

9 THE COURT: Rephrase it.

10 MS. HECTOR: Okay.

11 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, do you recall during cross examination that
12 Mr. Tremonte, when asking questions about this document,
13 referred to it as authorizing an issuance of stock?

14 MR. TREMONTE: Objection.

15 THE COURT: Overruled.

16 THE WITNESS: I believe so, yes.

17 MS. HECTOR: I'll move on since we just read the
18 section.

19 Q. In fact, does the first paragraph of this letter actually
20 authorize a transfer of stock?

21 A. It does.

22 Q. Turning to the second to last paragraph of this letter, who
23 are the shares supposed to be sent to?

24 A. "Ship all certificates by FedEx to Dr. Gary T. Hirst,
25 President of Gerova Management, at 1515 International Parkway,

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Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 Lake Mary."

2 Q. So these shares aren't being sent to you, are they?

3 A. No.

4 MS. HECTOR: If we could remove that call-out for a
5 second.

6 Q. There's a phone number. This letter suggests that if
7 there's any questions, the recipient, Continental, should call
8 a certain number. Do you see that?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. That's not your phone number, is it?

11 A. It is not.

12 Q. Do you know whose phone number that is?

13 A. I do not.

14 Q. Now, turning to the second page of this document, do you
15 see that there is an indication for shares that are being sent
16 to Marseille Capital?

17 A. I do see the indication with respect to Marseille Capital
18 and the address.

19 Q. Okay. And Marseille Capital, that's the entity that you
20 understood to be affiliated with Mr. Manley?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So fair to say that this document suggests that the shares
23 issued to Marseilles Capital are not newly issued shares, are
24 they?

25 A. Correct.

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Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 MS. HECTOR: Could we pull up Government's
2 Exhibit 216? Could we focus on page 4 of that document?
3 Actually, could we just go back a page first?

4 Q. This exhibit indicates that it concerns resolutions adopted
5 on meetings held when?

6 A. April 7th and April 8th.

7 Q. So is this referring to the board meetings that occurred on
8 April 7th and April 8th, 2010?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Is that the board meetings that were held in the Bahamas
11 that you testified about when Mr. Manley was fired?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Do you recall Mr. Tremonte asking you questions about
14 whether there was anything in these resolutions indicating a
15 ratification of the shares that were transferred to Mr. Manley?
16 Correct? Do you remember that?

17 A. Yes, I do.

18 MS. HECTOR: Could you now turn to page 4 of this
19 document? Could we focus on the section that starts "resolved
20 that the separation agreement and release"?

21 Q. In this resolution, does it indicate that a separation
22 agreement has been negotiated as well as a share repurchase
23 agreement between Marseilles Capital and Mr. Manley and the
24 company?

25 A. Yes, it does.

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Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 Q. Is it true that, in connection with this firing, the
2 repurchase of those shares that had been transferred to him
3 were resolved and presented to the board at this meeting?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And approved by the board in connection with this meeting?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Do you recall that this was the first Gerova board meeting
8 that occurred after the de-SPACing transactions?

9 A. I do not.

10 MS. HECTOR: We can take that down.

11 Q. On cross examination, Mr. Tremonte asked you some questions
12 regarding whether Mr. Bianco or you had ever given instructions
13 to Continental. Do you recall those series of questions?

14 A. I do.

15 Q. I believe Mr. Tremonte showed you some documents to refresh
16 your recollection as to that fact. Do you recall that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Do you recall if the instructions that you and Mr. Bianco
19 had given concerned an entity called Net Five Holdings?

20 A. I don't specifically recall.

21 MS. HECTOR: May I approach to refresh?

22 THE COURT: You may.

23 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, I'm handing you what we've marked for
24 identification as 1246 and 1247, if you could just take a
25 moment to look at those documents.

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Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 A. I see them.

2 Q. Now, after you've had a chance to look at those, if you
3 could just look up back at me and I can ask you questions.

4 Thank you.

5 Do you now recall that the instructions that had been
6 provided to Continental regarding -- from you and/or
7 Mr. Bianco, concerned an entity called Net Five Holdings?

8 A. I do.

9 MS. HECTOR: Could we pull up Government's
10 Exhibit 222?

11 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, do you recognize this document?

12 A. I do.

13 Q. What is this document, generally?

14 A. These are minutes of a board of directors meeting that was
15 held on October 6th, 2010.

16 Q. Can I turn your attention to the section marked "Net Five
17 discussion" in the middle of the page? Could you read the
18 first two lines of that discussion point?

19 THE COURT: I think the jurors have it up on the
20 screen and they can read it to themselves.

21 MS. HECTOR: Okay.

22 Q. Do you recall that the board discussed and approved of
23 loans to an entity called Net Five by providing collateral in
24 the form of Gerova stock?

25 A. Yes.

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Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 Q. So that was an item that was discussed at that board
2 meeting on October, 2010?

3 A. Yes.

4 MS. HECTOR: Could we pull up Government's
5 Exhibit 225?

6 Q. What is this document?

7 A. This document is minutes of a board of directors meeting
8 that was held on November 8th, 2010.

9 MS. HECTOR: Can we turn to page 3 of this document?

10 Q. If you could just take a moment to look at it. Does this
11 page also consider Net Five?

12 A. Yes, it does.

13 Q. Does this document indicate that a transaction involving
14 Net Five was presented to the board on that day and the board
15 approved certain resolutions with respect to that issue?

16 A. Yes, it does.

17 Q. If you look down, Section C under "resolved", did the board
18 of directors and officers of the company authorize instructions
19 to Continental Stock Transfer Company regarding the issuance of
20 shares to Net Five?

21 A. Yes, it did.

22 MS. HECTOR: Could we turn to Government's
23 Exhibit 226, please?

24 Q. What is this document?

25 A. Minutes of the board of directors meeting that was held on

G9JOHIR2

Redirect - Mr. Hlavsa

1 December 21st, 2010.

2 MS. HECTOR: Could we turn to the second page?

3 Q. In the center of the page, do you see a discussion entitled
4 "Net Five stock pledges"?

5 A. I do.

6 Q. Once again, do we see that the issue of stock provided to
7 Net Five is once again discussed at this board of directors
8 meeting?

9 A. I do.

10 (Continued on next page)

G9J8HIR3

Hlavsa - Redirect

1 BY MS. HECTOR:

2 Q. Do we see that the board has now, as a result of that
3 discussion, resolved to approve certain stock pledge agreements
4 that were circulated to the board for approval?

5 A. Yes.

6 MS. HECTOR: We can take that down.

7 Can we pull up Defense Exhibit 323.

8 Q. Now, Mr. Hlavsa, do you recall being shown this e-mail
9 during your cross-examination?

10 A. Yes, I do.

11 Q. Just turning to the bottom. Remind us, who was Vivina
12 Mendez?

13 A. She was our contact at one time with Continental Stock
14 Transfer.

15 Q. What generally is she providing here at the bottom of this
16 e-mail?

17 A. She is providing just a summary of the issued and
18 outstanding common shares of Gerova.

19 MS. HECTOR: Now, if we can turn to the top of this
20 e-mail.

21 Q. In this e-mail, you're requesting what you're referring to
22 as a shareholder listing for each month in 2010. Do you recall
23 that?

24 A. Yes, I do.

25 Q. And Mr. Tremonte was asking you questions about the fact

G9J8HIR3

Hlavsa - Redirect

1 that you had requested this monthly shareholder list, right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What kind of information is included on a monthly
4 shareholder listing?

5 A. It really depends on what type of report you're requesting.

6 MS. HECTOR: One second, your Honor.

7 Ms. Sheinwald, could we pull up for identification
8 just for the witness Defense Exhibit 327.

9 Q. Do you recognize this document, Mr. Hlavsa?

10 A. I do.

11 Q. Is this an e-mail you sent in the regular course of your
12 regularly conducted business at Gerova?

13 A. It is.

14 MS. HECTOR: The government offers Defense Exhibit
15 327.

16 MR. TREMONTE: No objection, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Received.

18 (Defendant's Exhibit 327 received in evidence)

19 MS. HECTOR: Now, if we can now pull that up for the
20 jurors.

21 Q. So, Mr. Hlavsa, if we can just look at this for a moment.

22 Who is this e-mail from and to?

23 A. It is from me to two individuals at Continental, Alexandra
24 and Vivina.

25 Q. What is the date on the e-mail?

G9J8HIR3

Hlavsa - Redirect

1 A. July 22, 2010.

2 Q. You see it says, "Attached is the June 30, 2010
3 shareholders report." Do you see that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Now, if we could look at the next page of this document.

6 MS. HECTOR: Ms. Sheinwald, is there any way to pull
7 up this page and the next page next to each other, because it
8 is an Excel spreadsheet and it really needs to be read across.

9 Q. Now, Mr. Hlavsa, is this one example of a monthly
10 shareholder listing?

11 A. It is.

12 Q. What kinds of information is included on this listing?

13 A. These are shareholders that Continental Stock would know
14 their specific information about them.

15 Q. So we have names all the way on the left side. Is that the
16 name of various shareholders?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Then we have some addresses provided.

19 Then we have something called "issue." What does that
20 mean?

21 A. It's the type of shares that are issued. C-O-M means
22 common.

23 Q. Then the last column is what?

24 A. The number of shares that that person in the first column,
25 the name would hold at that period of time.

G9J8HIR3

Hlavsa - Redirect

1 Q. Now, we see in row 11, there is something called Cede &
2 Company. What is Cede & Company?

3 A. Those are the shares that are held in street name; they are
4 in electronic form.

5 Q. What does it mean shares that are held in street name?

6 A. There's an opportunity with shareholders that you hold your
7 shares in electronic form so they can be traded more easily
8 than with a paper certificate, which requires signing on the
9 back of the certificate and a submittal to the stock transfer
10 agent in order to trade those shares. The world has changed to
11 be in electronic form where they can be exchanged almost
12 instantaneously between parties.

13 Q. So the stock that is held in this name of Cede & Company,
14 that's electronic shares, not these paper shares that are
15 harder to transfer, as you described, correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Are the shares that are held in Cede & Company, are they
18 free-trading shares or restricted shares?

19 A. It would be freely tradeable shares.

20 Q. Is Cede & Company a person or an entity that owns all of
21 those shares?

22 A. I think it's just an entity that accounts for the
23 transactions of those shares, in my understanding.

24 Q. So is it multiple shareholders that are encompassed within
25 this Cede number?

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Hlavsa - Redirect

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Now, if a person such as myself or any member of the public
3 owned shares of Gerova in a brokerage account, free-trading
4 shares, would those shares be encompassed in that Cede number?

5 A. Yes. If they were able to be electronically traded, yes,
6 the brokerage account would have electronic shares, they would
7 be included in that number for your individual broker, yes.

8 Q. If a person has free-trading shares in electronic form in a
9 brokerage account, their name is not going to show up on this
10 list, instead it's embedded within the Cede number, is that
11 accurate?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. So if the free-trading shares that were issued to Ymer
14 Shahini were placed into a brokerage account, would the name
15 Ymer Shahini appear on this shareholder list?

16 MR. TREMONTE: Objection, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: You understand the question, correct?

18 THE WITNESS: I do.

19 THE COURT: You may answer it, if you know.

20 A. Yes, they would show up in the Cede & Company number.

21 Q. They would show up in that number?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. As opposed to a line item for Ymer Shahini?

24 MR. TREMONTE: Objection, your Honor.

25 May we approach on this matter?

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Hlavsa - Redirect

1 THE COURT: No. Next question. I will give you some
2 latitude if you want to do some recross.

3 Go ahead.

4 Q. Those shares would appear on this list within this number
5 of shares across from the row Cede & Company, but not as a
6 separate line item for Ymer Shahini, is that accurate?

7 A. Yes, it is.

8 Q. Now, in your role as CFO, is that a number that you would
9 focus on when receiving a shareholder report like this, the
10 number held in Cede?

11 A. I did not.

12 Q. Why not?

13 A. It wasn't part of my responsibility to understand the
14 trading of the shares and how much were in the free trading and
15 the stock price; it just wasn't anything that I either
16 concentrated on, nor was it necessary in my position.

17 Q. Now, is this sort of monthly shareholder list different
18 from the transactional shareholder list that we discussed
19 during your direct testimony?

20 A. Yes, it is.

21 MS. HECTOR: So if we could just pull up Government
22 Exhibit 508 for a second.

23 Q. So looking at 508, is this a different kind of list that
24 Continental can provide to you?

25 A. Yes, it is.

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Hlavsa - Redirect

1 Q. Now, this list doesn't show the shareholders' names, this
2 shows the issuance by date, correct?

3 A. Yes. The increases and decreases in the shares that are
4 issued.

5 Q. This kind of list, the transactional list, is the kind of
6 list that you hold and received in September 2010 when you
7 discovered the shares, the over 5 million shares that had been
8 issued to Ymer Shahini, correct?

9 A. It is.

10 MS. HECTOR: Can we pull up Government Exhibit 579.

11 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, do you recall being shown this exhibit during
12 cross-examination?

13 A. I do.

14 Q. Now, Mr. Tremonte asked you to look at the subject line of
15 this e-mail, New York Stock Exchange information letter
16 request. Do you remember that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. To be clear, are you one of the recipients on this e-mail?

19 A. I am not.

20 MS. HECTOR: Can we turn to Defense Exhibit 200.

21 I'm sorry. That's the wrong document.

22 Defense Exhibit 200. Perfect. Thank you.

23 Q. Do you recall Mr. Tremonte showing you this exhibit during
24 your cross-examination?

25 A. Yes, I do.

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Hlavsa - Redirect

1 Q. Who is this e-mail from?

2 A. I do not know.

3 Q. What is the name?

4 A. There is no name. Well, I guess the e-mail is the name,
5 bigshmulic.

6 Q. Who is it to?

7 A. Joe Bianco.

8 Q. When is it dated?

9 A. January 24, 2011.

10 Q. Are you either the sender or the recipient of this e-mail?

11 A. I am not.

12 Q. Prior to testifying last week, had you ever seen this
13 e-mail?

14 A. I had not.

15 Q. Turning to page 11 of that document.

16 Now, Mr. Tremonte directed your attention to this
17 paragraph that starts "in March 2010."

18 Do you see that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Now, this document, and specifically this paragraph,
21 suggests that the warrant that is being discussed here was
22 issued in payment of a fee the company agreed to pay Mr.
23 Galanis for facilitating the acquisition of the Wimbledon
24 assets and the introduction of Keith R. Harris and the
25 opportunity to acquire Seymour Pierce.

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Hlavsa - Redirect

1 Do you see that?

2 A. I do.

3 MS. HECTOR: Can we just go back to that document for
4 a second.

5 Q. And in the second paragraph there, this document states
6 that Mr. Galanis requested that the warrant be issued to an
7 unnamed business associate of Mr. Galanis.

8 Do you see that?

9 A. I do.

10 Q. And it further states that that unnamed associate is a
11 partner in an unrelated entity formed by Mr. Galanis and the
12 associate to engage in investments in natural resources
13 unrelated to the company.

14 Do you see that?

15 MR. TREMONTE: Objection to form, your Honor.

16 Q. Do you see that?

17 A. I do.

18 Q. Do you have any independent knowledge whether Mr. Galanis
19 in fact formed an unrelated entity with someone to engage in
20 investments in natural resources?

21 A. I do not.

22 Q. Do you have any independent knowledge about whether that
23 entity, if it exists, had any involvement with a company called
24 White Energy?

25 A. I do not.

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Hlavsa - Redirect

1 MS. HECTOR: Can we pull up Government Exhibit 250
2 again for a moment.

3 Q. This is the consulting agreement that we have spent some
4 time on.

5 Do you see any mention in this document about an
6 introduction of Keith Harris?

7 A. I do not.

8 Q. Do you see any mention in this document about Seymour
9 Pierce?

10 A. I do not.

11 Q. Do you see any mention in this document about Jason
12 Galanis?

13 A. I do not.

14 Q. Any mention in this document about an entity formed by
15 Jason Galanis and another individual?

16 A. I do not.

17 MS. HECTOR: Can we turn to Defense Exhibit 201.

18 Q. Do you recall that Mr. Tremonte also showed you this
19 document?

20 A. I do.

21 Q. Now, prior to testifying last week, do you recall ever
22 having seen this specific document?

23 A. I do not.

24 MS. HECTOR: Now, could we turn to page 10 of this?

25 Q. Do you see at the bottom of this page the notation where

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Hlavsa - Redirect

1 someone has written in, "How does this respond to their
2 question? Why is this here?"

3 Do you see that?

4 A. I do.

5 Q. Do you have any idea who wrote that in this document?

6 A. I do not.

7 Q. Turning to Defense Exhibit 203.

8 Now, who is this e-mail from and to?

9 A. This e-mail is from Stephen Weiss with Hodgson Russ to Joe
10 Bianco, myself and Gary Hirst. It cc's Jason Galanis, Lucas
11 Mann, Shant Chalian, Eric Pinero.

12 Q. You are listed on this e-mail?

13 A. I am.

14 Q. What is the date of this e-mail?

15 A. January 26, 2011.

16 Q. Now, can you look at the attachment. Let's look at the
17 first page of this attachment.

18 Now, I know you haven't had an opportunity to compare
19 this line for line with the documents we have just been looking
20 at, but does this appear to be at least some draft of the
21 documents that we have previously just been looking at?

22 A. Yes, it does.

23 Q. Did you draft this letter, Mr. Hlavsa?

24 A. I did not.

25 Q. Now, let's turn to page 11 of this document.

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Hlavsa - Redirect

1 MS. HECTOR: I'm sorry. It's page 11 of the letter
2 and page 12 of this document.

3 Q. Now, let's look at item number 7.

4 This item asks someone to provide detailed historical
5 financial information for fiscal year 2010.

6 Do you see that?

7 A. I do.

8 Q. Do you see that there is a bracketed section, "Mr. Hlavsa
9 to respond."

10 Do you see that?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. If we could just jump back to the document without the call
13 out.

14 Do you see there's other portions of this document,
15 specifically under item number 8 and item 9, where there is
16 bracketed sections asking you and others to potentially provide
17 information or input.

18 Do you see that?

19 A. Yes, I do.

20 MS. HECTOR: If we can just go back for a second.

21 If we could go one page back in this document.

22 Q. So here at the top of this page we see item number 6,
23 right, "Provide the detail of any related party transactions
24 not already included."

25 Do you see that?

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Hlavsa - Redirect

1 A. I do.

2 Q. Do you see any notation under that item for you to provide
3 input there?

4 A. I do not.

5 Q. Just so that we can be assured that we are looking at the
6 entirety of item number 6, can we turn to the next page of this
7 document, where item 6 continues.

8 Do you see any indication in the remainder of this
9 section, item number 6, asking for your input?

10 A. I do not.

11 Q. Is this the item where this paragraph that we have been
12 focusing on starting "in March 2010" appears?

13 A. Yes, it does, the last paragraph.

14 Q. Do you recall, when you received this e-mail with this
15 attachment, whether you focused on the sections of this letter
16 that you were not being directed to provide input in?

17 A. I do not recall.

18 MS. HECTOR: Can we pull up Defense Exhibit 209?

19 Q. Just take a moment to look at this, yet another version of
20 this letter.

21 Do you recall being asked about this version during
22 your cross-examination?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And this is the version, if you recall, that there are
25 places within this document where there is track changes with

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Hlavsa - Redirect

1 your initials. Do you recall that?

2 A. Yes, I do.

3 Q. Now, let's turn to page 11 of this document.

4 Actually, why don't we start on page 10.

5 So here we are again in item number 6, the item we
6 have been focusing on. Do you see any track changes comments
7 by you in this section?

8 A. No, I do not.

9 Q. And turning to the next page, the continuation of item 6,
10 do you see any track changes by you in the continuation of that
11 section?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Is that the section that again has that paragraph that
14 begins "in March 2010"?

15 A. Yes, it does.

16 Q. Let's now turn to the last page of this document.

17 Let's turn to Government Exhibit 589, if we can.

18 Now, does this appear to be the version of the letter
19 that actually gets sent to the New York Stock Exchange?

20 A. Yes, it does.

21 Q. If we can look at the last page of this document.

22 Whose signature appears on the last page of this
23 document?

24 A. Gary Hirst.

25 Q. Now, if we can look up at page 11 of this document.

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1 Focusing on that paragraph that starts "in March
2 2010." Do you see there is some additional language in this
3 document regarding, at the end of this paragraph, what Mr.
4 Galanis has advised that he has done with these warrants? Do
5 you see that?

6 Starting a little above that, where it says, Mr.
7 Galanis advises that he transferred the warrants to a limited
8 partnership, that section. Do you see that section of this
9 document?

10 A. I do.

11 Q. And now it adds some additional detail about that transfer
12 and it says, now it's in connection with a capital contribution
13 to the partnership, in consideration of a settlement agreement
14 with the general partner.

15 Do you see that additional language?

16 A. I do.

17 Q. It says, also, Mr. Galanis advises he was never a general
18 partner of such partnership.

19 Do you see that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Nor did he control a majority of the limited partnership
22 interest?

23 A. I see that.

24 Q. And then he also further advises now that in 2010 he ceased
25 becoming a limited partner, correct?

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Hlavsa - Redirect

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Do you know, Mr. Hlavsa, who drafted this paragraph?

3 A. I do not.

4 Q. Now, prior to meeting with the government, had you ever
5 recalled hearing of an entity called Balkan Hellenic?

6 A. I had not.

7 Q. Prior to meeting with the government, were you at all aware
8 of a partnership involving Jason Galanis, Ymer Shahini and
9 Balkan Hellenic?

10 A. I was not.

11 MS. HECTOR: Can we call up Government Exhibit 251
12 again for a moment.

13 Q. Now, is this the warrant agreement that we have been
14 discussing?

15 A. Yes, it is.

16 Q. The entity Balkan Hellenic isn't mentioned anywhere in this
17 warrant agreement, is it?

18 A. No, it is not.

19 Q. This warrant agreement mentions in the second "whereas"
20 paragraph that it relates to the acquisition of certain assets
21 from Weston Capital Management.

22 Do you see that?

23 A. I do.

24 Q. This warrant agreement doesn't mention anything about
25 Seymour Pierce, does it?

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Hlavsa - Redirect

1 A. No, it does not.

2 Q. It doesn't mention anything about Keith Harris, does it?

3 A. It does not.

4 MS. HECTOR: Ms. Sheinwald, can we pull up Government
5 Exhibit 613.

6 Q. Just so the record is clear, I think when you were asked on
7 cross-examination about this document, it was referred to as
8 Defense Exhibit 807. That's the same as this document,
9 Government Exhibit 613. It just has a different sticker on it,
10 but it's the same document.

11 What is the date of this e-mail? Both e-mails are the
12 same. So what is the date?

13 A. Sunday, June 13, 2010.

14 Q. Now, just to be clear, what was the date of the filing of
15 the first 20-F in this matter?

16 A. Around June 2, 2010.

17 Q. Do you recall the date of the filing of the amended 20-F,
18 201?

19 A. I believe it's June 16, 2010.

20 Q. So this e-mail occurs between the filing of the first 20-F
21 and the filing of the second 20-F, is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And what is it that Mr. Hirst says to you at the top of
24 this e-mail chain regarding the finder's fee? Can you read
25 that to us?

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Hlavsa - Redirect

1 A. "I just want to make sure that the 23.5 million includes
2 the finder's fee for the Wimbledon transaction."

3 Q. The finder's fee, as you understand it, does that refer to
4 the consulting agreement with Ymer Shahini?

5 A. I believe it does.

6 Q. Now, the date of this e-mail, June 13, that date falls
7 after March 29, 2010, correct?

8 A. Yes, it does.

9 Q. So this e-mail is sent from Mr. Hirst to you after the date
10 of the warrant agreement at issue in this case, correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 MS. HECTOR: Can we just pull up 251 again for a
13 second and look at the last page of that document?

14 Q. That warrant agreement, dated March 29, 2010, is signed by
15 Gary Hirst, correct?

16 A. Yes, it is.

17 MS. HECTOR: Can we now jump back to Government
18 Exhibit 613.

19 Q. In this e-mail, where Mr. Hirst is talking about the
20 finder's fee, does he say anything about the existence of a
21 warrant agreement to settle that finder's fee?

22 A. He does not.

23 Q. And this date, again June 13, 2010, that's after May 26,
24 2010, right?

25 A. Yes.

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Hlavsa - Redirect

1 Q. Approximately two weeks later, right?

2 A. Yes.

3 MS. HECTOR: Can we pull up Government Exhibit 500,
4 page 2.

5 Q. Do you recall this document, Mr. Hlavsa?

6 A. Yes, I do.

7 Q. What is the date of this document?

8 A. May 26, 2010.

9 Q. In this document, what is Mr. Hirst instructing Continental
10 Stock Transfer Company to do?

11 A. To issue in electronic form 5,333,333 ordinary shares to
12 Ymer Shahini.

13 Q. Does the first paragraph indicate that that issuance is in
14 response to an exercise notice in connection with a redeemable
15 warrant agreement?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And in the second paragraph, what does Mr. Hirst indicate
18 to Continental should be the issue date for those shares?

19 A. May 27, 2010.

20 Q. And as far as you understand, those shares were in fact
21 issued to Ymer Shahini on May 27, 2010, right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Over five million free trading shares of Gerova stock?

24 MR. TREMONTE: Objection, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Overruled.

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Hlavsa - Redirect

1 I am going to require you to rephrase it.

2 Q. On that day, were over 5,333,333 shares of Gerova stock
3 issued to Ymer Shahini?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And was the instruction from Mr. Hirst that those shares
6 should be delivered via DWAC?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Does this instruction from Mr. Hirst indicate that those
9 shares should be free trading in the third paragraph of this
10 letter?

11 MR. TREMONTE: Objection, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: I will allow it.

13 A. Yes.

14 MS. HECTOR: So can we flip now back to Government
15 Exhibit 613.

16 Q. So this e-mail on June 13, this is two weeks after Mr.
17 Hirst has just instructed Continental to issue shares in
18 satisfaction of the warrant agreement in this matter, correct?

19 A. Yes, it is.

20 Q. In this e-mail, does Mr. Hirst inform you that the finder's
21 fee has in fact been satisfied by the issuance of over five
22 million free-trading shares of Gerova stocks?

23 A. It does not.

24 Q. Would that information had been relevant to you at the
25 time?

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Hlavsa - Redirect

1 A. Yes, it had.

2 Q. But Mr. Hirst did not tell you those important facts, did
3 he?

4 A. No.

5 MS. HECTOR: Can we pull up what is marked as
6 Government Exhibit 615.

7 Q. Now, Mr. Hlavsa, looking at the date of this exhibit, what
8 is the date of these e-mails?

9 A. Tuesday, June 15, 2010.

10 Q. So this is just a couple of days after the e-mail we just
11 looked at, right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And looking at the e-mail at the bottom of the screen, this
14 is some revised language for the 20-F for the specific portion
15 that related to the cost of the business combinations, correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And during your cross-examination, Mr. Tremonte pointed out
18 a difference in this language from what had been described in
19 the original 20-F filing, correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And, specifically, he pointed you to the fact that there is
22 the addition of the phrase "and certain private warrants."
23 Correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So the revised language now would state that: "Of this

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Hlavsa - Redirect

1 amount, approximately 10,400,000 million was satisfied through
2 the issuance of 1,391,667 ordinary shares and certain private
3 warrants." Right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. If we can look back to the e-mail, what does Gary Hirst
6 respond to you with respect to that revised language?

7 A. He says, "This is correct and perfect. Approved."

8 MS. HECTOR: Can we go back to the e-mail.

9 Q. Now, at the time that you received this e-mail from Mr.
10 Hirst, June 15, 2010, you were not aware of the warrant
11 agreement that you don't find out about till December 2010,
12 correct?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. But, in fact, you later came to know that the Shahini
15 warrant agreement had already been exercised and turned into
16 shares of stock, correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Shares that you did not know at this point had even been
19 issued, correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And Gary Hirst, the person approving this language for you,
22 with this additional phrase "and certain private warrants," was
23 the person who had sent the letter to Continental seeking
24 issuance of those shares in satisfaction of the warrant
25 agreement with Mr. Shahini, correct?

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Hlavsa - Redirect

1 A. Yes.

2 THE COURT: We are going to break for lunch.

3 Ladies and gentlemen, please do not discuss the case
4 among yourselves or with anyone. I will see you back shortly
5 after 2:00.

6 Thank you very much.

7 (Jury exits courtroom)

8 THE COURT: I will see counsel and the parties at ten
9 minutes of 2.

10 (Luncheon recess)

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1 AFTERNOON SESSION

2 2:00 p.m.

3 (Jury not present)

4 THE COURT: One of the issues that has reemerged is
5 statements made by Jason Galanis to law enforcement, the gist
6 of which was with regard to the Ozone Man transaction that he,
7 Jason Galanis, concealed the participation of another person in
8 that transaction because Jason Galanis believed that Hirst
9 would not participate in the transaction if he knew of this
10 other person's participation.

11 I have already ruled that it does not come in under an
12 exception to the hearsay rule, for reasons that I have
13 explained. The defense has now offered it not for the truth of
14 its content, but as a statement bearing on the state of mind of
15 Jason Galanis, and I have reconsidered in light of that offered
16 for a different purpose.

17 I conclude that it is inadmissible because, number
18 one, it has little or no probative value with regard to Jason
19 Galanis's state of mind as it bears on Gary Hirst's conscious
20 decision to join in a conspiracy with Jason Galanis. If it has
21 any probative value, which I view as slight, it is
22 substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice and
23 jury confusion, because it would be elicited from law
24 enforcement and it would beg the question of why Galanis is
25 speaking with law enforcement on this subject. It also raises

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1 the question of who was this other person, who is not a person
2 at all involved in the conspiracy or any of the transactions at
3 issue, and it runs the risk of opening doors.

4 I understand the defendant's position that they have
5 optimism that they could reach a compromise stipulation with
6 the government, but that hope does not satisfy my concerns, and
7 so it is inadmissible.

8 Now, with regard to Gary Hirst's contact with law
9 enforcement, let me ask Mr. Tremonte to put on the record, when
10 did you Mr. Hirst speak with law enforcement?

11 MR. TREMONTE: Your Honor, it was at some point in
12 2013. I apologize, I don't have that information handy, but I
13 believe we provided it to the government.

14 MR. BLAIS: I think the date was October 31, 2013.

15 THE COURT: Mr. Blais, is that a point in time after
16 the conspiracy?

17 MR. BLAIS: Yes, your Honor. The conspiracy that's
18 alleged in the indictment is from 2009 through 2011.

19 THE COURT: And I take it you have spoken to your
20 witnesses about what they would say about this, or you have
21 spoken to law enforcement agents or you have information from
22 law enforcement agents about what was said?

23 MR. BLAIS: That's correct, your Honor.

24 THE COURT: What, if anything, was said with regard to
25 the charged conspiracy, or Geroval, or any of the matters

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1 discussed thus far in this trial?

2 MR. BLAIS: From what we can tell, what largely
3 happened at the meeting was that Mr. Hirst provided law
4 enforcement agents with a written statement. There was not,
5 from what we can tell, a colloquy or questioning. There was a
6 written statement, and that written statement largely touched
7 on Mr. Hirst's interactions with a gentleman named David
8 Bergstein, which began during the time period that Mr. Gerova
9 was in existence. And Mr. Bergstein had some involvement with
10 Gerova at the end of 2010, but it was unrelated to the Shahini
11 share issuance and the matters that have been an issue at the
12 trial.

13 So part of the written statement is about Gerova, but
14 that written statement about Gerova is not about the Gerova
15 transactions that are at issue.

16 THE COURT: And tell me how Mr. Bergstein fits into
17 the charged conspiracy here, if at all, or any defense to that
18 conspiracy.

19 MR. TREMONTE: The only indirect connection that I am
20 aware of is my understanding is some of the Shahini shares
21 ended up getting transferred to Bergstein through a series of
22 transactions after the events of January and March and May of
23 2010.

24 But just so the record is clear, I think there was a
25 lengthy interview and colloquy. All that's left of that

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1 interview, which Mr. Hirst initiated with these FBI agents, is
2 the written statement that Mr. Hirst provided to the agents
3 about Gerova and Bergstein. Apparently, based on the
4 government's investigation of what is in the records, what is
5 in the FBI records, the agents, to my mind remarkably, did not
6 write anything down. They appeared to have accepted Mr.
7 Hirst's written statement and placed it into, I would guess an
8 A file. I don't know that for fact, but they put it in their
9 records. We don't know what the agents recall about this
10 interview, but it was not simply a matter of Mr. Hirst walking
11 to the hotel where they met, handing him a multipage,
12 single-spaced document and walking away. They had an extensive
13 interview. And so that's the factual background.

14 Again, your Honor, I just want to emphasize, it's the
15 content of the writing or statements that Mr. Hirst made that
16 are admissible.

17 THE COURT: But you do not contend that he referred to
18 the warrant agreement, any consulting arrangement with Mr.
19 Shahini, any mention of Mr. Shahini, or any discussion of
20 Mr. Jason Galanis, do you?

21 MR. TREMONTE: Well, I don't believe, as I stand here,
22 that there was any discussions specifically of Mr. Shahini. I
23 would be surprised if there was not extensive discussion of
24 Gerova and Galanis and Bergstein who ended up taking over
25 Gerova. I think the Bergstein contact with Gerova was

G9J8HIR3

1 initially through Mr. Klass, like most of the other people
2 involved, and there was a power struggle, and I believe control
3 of Gerova ended up in Mr. Bergstein's hands, and all of that
4 was the subject of the discussion between Mr. Hirst and the
5 agents. That's what he went to talk to them about.

6 THE COURT: Thank you.

7 The Court will not allow questioning of the agents on
8 the subject. First of all, it does not appear to me that there
9 is anything of probative value relative to this case. I
10 understand the contention of the defense that willingness to
11 speak to law enforcement bespeaks of consciousness of
12 innocence. But this case is very much unlike the *Biaggi* case.
13 Speaking to law enforcement is often a quite ambiguous action,
14 wholly unlike the refusal of a grant of immunity. And that
15 persons who speak with law enforcement often tell the truth,
16 and people who speak with law enforcement often do not tell the
17 truth, and the fact of a willingness to speak to law
18 enforcement does not, in my view, have sufficient probative
19 value to make it relevant. If it does, again, under Rule 403,
20 I conclude that any slight probative value is substantially
21 outweighed by the danger of jury confusion. So that is out.

22 Is there anything else outstanding in the government's
23 case that I need to rule on?

24 MS. HARRIS: Your Honor, there is this issue of
25 proposed Government Exhibit 910.

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Hlavsa - Recross

1 THE COURT: Let me find out, are the jurors here?

2 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Yes.

3 THE COURT: We are going to go ahead with the jury.

4 We may take it up at another time.

5 Thank you for reminding me, Ms. Harris.

6 (Continued on next page)

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Hlavsa - Recross

1 (Jury present)

2 MICHAEL HLAVSA, resumed.

3 THE COURT: You may continue.

4 MS. HECTOR: Your Honor, I have nothing further.

5 THE COURT: All right. I indicated I would give you
6 recross on the one point that I allowed government to get into.
7 If you would like to do that, you may.

8 MR. TREMONTE: I would like to recross on two points,
9 if I may.

10 THE COURT: Is one of them the point which I
11 mentioned?

12 MR. TREMONTE: Your Honor, I apologize, I can't recall
13 the specific.

14 THE COURT: Ask your questions. We will see where we
15 go.

16 RECROSS-EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. TREMONTE:

18 Q. Mr. Hlavsa, you testified just before the break about
19 free-trading shares and, in particular, that you would have
20 wanted to know about the free-trading shares that were issued
21 pursuant to the warrant agreement, correct?

22 A. I don't recall. Can you refresh me?

23 Q. You were asked about the shares that were issued to Mr.
24 Shahini pursuant to the exercise of the warrant agreement,
25 correct?

G9J8HIR3

Hlavsa - Recross

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you testified that you would have wanted to know if so
3 many free-trading shares would have come into circulation,
4 correct? You would have wanted to know that back in May,
5 March, earlier if possible, correct?

6 A. I would have wanted to know any shares that were being
7 issued, yes.

8 Q. But the shares that were issued pursuant to the warrant
9 agreement were issued to a foreign person, correct?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. And they were issued pursuant to Reg S, correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And that was so stated in the Barry Feiner opinion letter,
14 isn't that right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. In fact, that was referenced in the warrant agreement,
17 isn't that right?

18 A. I don't recall it being referenced in the warrant
19 agreement.

20 MR. TREMONTE: Let's just bring up Government Exhibit
21 251 briefly.

22 Q. I would just direct your attention to the page ending in
23 868. And there is a numbered paragraph 6 which says, "No right
24 of registration," which I would ask you to read. And then I
25 would ask you, isn't it true that that references that the

G9J8HIR3

Hlavsa - Recross

1 securities described in the warrant agreement are Reg S shares,
2 correct?

3 A. It does refer to Reg S, yes, Regulation S.

4 Q. This, together with the Barry Feiner letter, means that the
5 share in the hands of a non-U.S. person cannot be traded on a
6 U.S. exchange, correct?

7 A. I do not know that.

8 Q. If they could only be traded offshore, then the extent to
9 which they are freely tradeable is severely curtailed, right?

10 A. I do not know that.

11 Q. And the only other topic I have is, you testified on, I
12 guess redirect, about the consulting agreement, correct?

13 A. The consulting fee?

14 Q. You were shown the consulting agreement, correct?

15 A. Can you refresh that point?

16 Q. Let me just ask it this way because it's the last couple of
17 questions I have.

18 You also testified on redirect about the testimony you
19 gave in front of the SEC, correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And when you testified before the SEC, you were under oath,
22 right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And you testified to the SEC that --

25 MS. HECTOR: Objection.

G9J8HIR3

Hlavsa - Recross

1 THE COURT: Sustained.

2 Q. You received from Mr. Weiss, in May or June of 2010, a
3 signed copy of the consulting agreement, correct?

4 A. I do not recall whether it was signed or not.

5 Q. May I show you something to refresh your recollection?

6 A. OK.

7 Q. Does that refresh your recollection that you provided a
8 signed copy of the consulting agreement to Mr. Weiss in May or
9 June of 2010?

10 A. I did not provide a signed copy to Mr. Weiss. I had
11 received a copy from Mr. Weiss.

12 Q. I'm sorry. You received a signed copy of the consulting
13 agreement from Mr. Weiss at that time, correct?

14 A. That's what I testified.

15 MS. HECTOR: Objection.

16 THE COURT: No, no. We have been through this before
17 OK?

18 THE WITNESS: Yes.

19 THE COURT: This is being shown to you to see whether
20 it refreshes your recollection.

21 THE WITNESS: It does not.

22 THE COURT: Sorry to cut you off, sir, but that's my
23 job.

24 THE WITNESS: I appreciate that.

25 MR. TREMONTE: I have no further questions, your

G9J8HIR3

Honor.

THE COURT: You may step down.

(Witness excused)

MR. BLAIS: At this time, we have two stipulations to read to the jury.

THE COURT: You may read the stipulations.

MR. BLAIS: Reading first from Government Exhibit 1508.

"It is hereby stipulated and agreed by the parties and their respective counsel that, if called to testify, the respective records custodians for (1) Roth Capital Partners, LLC (Government Exhibits 300 through 308); (2) CK Cooper and Company (Government Exhibits 330-334); (3) Morgan Stanley (Government Exhibits 340 and 341); (4) Raymond James (Government Exhibits 360-365; (5) Murphy & Durieu (Government Exhibits 370-386; and (6) Charles Schwab (Government Exhibits 390-393 and 395) will testify as follows:

"1. That the government exhibits set forth herein are true and correct copies of brokerage records that were created, kept and maintained in the ordinary course of business of the above-named entities.

"2. These records were created by persons with knowledge of, or created from information transmitted by persons with knowledge of, the information shown, and were created at or near the time the information became available.

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1 "3. Government Exhibit 395 is an Excel spreadsheet
2 containing trading activity details specific to Gerova
3 Financial Group in the accounts of Martin Kelly Capital and
4 SunTrust Bank client accounts during the period June 30, 2009
5 through June 30, 2011.

6 "It is further stipulated and agreed by and among the
7 parties that this stipulation is admissible as a government
8 exhibit at trial."

9 At this time, your Honor, the government would offer
10 Government Exhibits 300 to 308, 330 to 334, 340 and 341, 360 to
11 365, 370 to 386, 390 to 393, 395, and the stipulation, which is
12 Government Exhibit 1508.

13 THE COURT: Any objection?

14 MR. TREMONTE: No objection.

15 THE COURT: Received.

16 (Government's Exhibits 300-308, 330-334, 340 and 341,
17 360-365, 370-386, 390-393, 395, and 1508 received in evidence)

18 MR. BLAIS: The second stipulation I will be reading
19 from is Government Exhibit 1512, which reads:

20 "It is stipulated and agreed by and among the parties,
21 and their respective counsel, that:

22 "1. Government Exhibit 509 is a true and accurate
23 copy of an e-mail from the e-mail account of Stephen Weiss,
24 with e-mail address sweiss@hodgsonruss.com.

25 "2. Government Exhibit 1200 is a true and accurate

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1 copy of an e-mail from the e-mail account of Lucas Mann, with
2 e-mail address l.mann@me.com.

3 "3. Government Exhibit 1210 is a true and accurate
4 copy of an e-mail from the e-mail account of Jillian Mally,
5 with e-mail address jillian@islandstocktransfer.com.

6 "4. Government Exhibits 1220 through 1222 are true
7 and accurate copies of e-mails from the e-mail account of Jason
8 Galanis, with e-mail address jason@fund.com.

9 "5. Government Exhibits 1260 and 1262 are true and
10 accurate copies of e-mails from the e-mail account of James
11 Tagliaferri, with e-mail address J6395@aol.com.

12 "6. Government Exhibits 1280 through 1282 are true
13 and accurate copies of e-mails from the e-mail account of Gavin
14 Hamels, with e-mail address hamelsg@hotmail.com.

15 "It is further stipulated and agreed by and among the
16 parties that this stipulation is admissible as a government
17 exhibit at trial."

18 And it is dated September 11, 2016 and signed by the
19 parties.

20 At this time, your Honor, the government would offer
21 Government Exhibit 509, 1200, 1210, 1220 through 1222, 1260,
22 1262, 1280 through 1282, and the stipulation, which is
23 Government Exhibit 1512.

24 THE COURT: Any objection?

25 MR. TREMONTE: Your Honor, may I confer with Mr. Blais

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Cole - Direct

1 for a moment?

2 THE COURT: You may.

3 MR. TREMONTE: No objection, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Received.

5 (Government's Exhibits 509, 1200, 1210, 1220-1222,
6 1260, 1262, 1280-1282, and 1512 received in evidence)

7 THE COURT: Call your next witness.

8 MS. MERMELSTEIN: The government calls Dr. Alan Cole.

9 Is it all right to clear off the witness stand?

10 THE COURT: Yes.

11 ALAN COLE,

12 called as a witness by the government,

13 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

14 THE DEPUTY CLERK: State your name and spell it for
15 the record, please.

16 THE WITNESS: My name is Alan Cole, A-L-A-N, C-O-L-E.

17 THE COURT: You may inquire.

18 DIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY MS. MERMELSTEIN:

20 Q. Good afternoon, Dr. Cole.

21 A. Good afternoon.

22 Q. What sort of work do you do?

23 A. I'm a physician.

24 Q. What kind of a physician?

25 A. I am an endocrinologist.

G9J8HIR3

Cole - Direct

1 Q. What is an endocrinologist?

2 A. I take care of people with diabetes, thyroid disease,
3 calcium disorders and other hormonal concerns.

4 Q. Where do you live?

5 A. I live in Needham, Massachusetts.

6 Q. Are you familiar with an individual named James
7 Tagliaferri?

8 A. I am.

9 Q. What kind of work did Mr. Tagliaferri do?

10 A. He was a financial adviser, manager.

11 Q. Were you or any of your family members clients of Mr.
12 Tagliaferri?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Who?

15 A. My parents.

16 Q. Are your parents currently living?

17 A. My mother is.

18 Q. Did your father pass away?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Approximately when did your father pass away?

21 A. In 2006.

22 Q. What sort of work did your father do?

23 A. My father imported and produced elastic and also something
24 called stribbons, which people probably know. It's essentially
25 an elasticized gold string tied into a bow, put on packages in

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Cole - Direct

1 department stores and the like.

2 Q. The kind of thing you see on a box of candy?

3 A. Yes. My father invented that.

4 Q. Was he successful?

5 A. He was.

6 Q. Is it fair to say that he became very wealthy by virtue of
7 his entrepreneurial endeavors?

8 A. He became pretty wealthy.

9 Q. How would you describe his business savvy and know-how?

10 A. He was very good at what he did. My father was a product
11 of the Depression; his parents went bankrupt. He worked very
12 hard, and I think his pedigree from that was that people really
13 needed to work hard in life, and he was self-made. He sold his
14 business to people that actually had been in government,
15 including the Senate Majority Leader who thought he was the
16 best operations person they had ever met.

17 Q. How would you describe your father's literacy in financial
18 investments?

19 A. He was very good at that.

20 Q. When did your father first engage Tagliaferri as his
21 investment adviser?

22 A. In 1985.

23 Q. Were they close?

24 A. They were, actually. They became friends. They shared an
25 office for a time. They shared a secretary for years.

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Cole - Direct

1 Q. How established was Tagliaferri as an investment adviser at
2 the time that your father retained him?

3 A. I believe my father was his second client. So he was -- I
4 think he started working with Tagliaferri early in his career.

5 Q. How long did Mr. Tagliaferri serve as an investment adviser
6 to your father?

7 A. Until he died in 2006.

8 Q. Was your father a conservative or a less conservative
9 investor?

10 A. I think he was probably pretty conservative. As he got
11 older, he might have invested in secured things like bonds. I
12 don't know that he did. He probably stayed in the stock
13 market.

14 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, I am going to strike
15 that portion of Dr. Cole's testimony because you can't
16 speculate.

17 If you know, you know. Otherwise just say, I don't
18 know.

19 THE WITNESS: I don't know.

20 Q. I want to shift from your father for a moment and speak
21 about your mother.

22 What is your mother's name?

23 A. Rita Cole.

24 Q. Did she work?

25 A. No.

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Cole - Direct

1 Q. How did she occupy her time?

2 A. I suppose she was the traditional housewife. She took care
3 of her children. She was at home, I would say.

4 Q. How was her investment literacy compare to your father's?

5 A. She had no investment literacy. She really did not have
6 experience at it. My father was sort of the traditional male
7 and took ownership of it and didn't share it.

8 Q. How old is your mother now?

9 A. 93.

10 Q. Where does she live?

11 A. She lives in Delray Beach, Florida.

12 Q. How often do you speak to her?

13 A. At least twice a week.

14 Q. How is her physical health?

15 A. Well, she has gotten older. She actually has metastatic
16 cancer and has become debilitated over the years.

17 Q. What about her mental agility? How, if at all, have you
18 noticed changes in her mental agility in the last number of
19 years?

20 A. Her memory is not as good as it was.

21 Q. Let's talk a little bit about what happened to your
22 father's investments when he passed away in 2006.

23 What happened to his accounts with Mr. Tagliaferri?

24 A. Well, my father didn't make arrangements for after his
25 demise. He left it to Jim Tagliaferri, I suspect, because --

G9J8HIR3

Cole - Direct

1 Q. Let me not --

2 A. I'm not allowed to suspect.

3 THE COURT: Stop.

4 Next question.

5 Q. Did Mr. Tagliaferri continue to manage the accounts once
6 they passed to your mother?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What was the relationship between Mr. Tagliaferri and your
9 mother?

10 A. He was extremely nice to her. He talked to her a lot. He
11 would visit her every month or two, fly up from the Virgin
12 Islands to Florida to have lunch. He bought her an iPad. I
13 will say that he was -- I believe he played her.

14 (Continued on next page)

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G9JOHIR4

Direct - Dr. Cole

1 BY MS. MERMELSTEIN:

2 Q. Who made the investment decisions in your mother's accounts
3 once your father had passed away?

4 A. Tagliaferri.

5 Q. Generally speaking, how open was your mother to sharing her
6 account statements or discussing her financial situation with
7 her children or members of your family?

8 A. She wasn't. She was very protective, very guarded.

9 Q. Did there come a time when she expressed concern to you
10 about her accounts with Mr. Tagliaferri?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Approximately when was that?

13 A. That was in early 2011.

14 Q. What did you do after she expressed that concern?

15 A. Well, she called me up, she said there was a substantial
16 decline in her assets. She received a statement every month
17 and looked at it. She was worried about it and she -- and I
18 offered to call him, and she said "yes".

19 Q. Did you call him?

20 A. I did.

21 Q. Had you ever spoken to him before about your mother's
22 accounts?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Tell me about the conversation.

25 A. Well, I asked him what she was invested in. He named a

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Direct - Dr. Cole

1 number of equities that I had never heard of.

2 MR. BIALE: Objection, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Is this being offered for the truth of its
4 content?

5 MS. MERMELSTEIN: No, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, we'll take this
7 testimony with the fact that it was said by Mr. Tagliaferri
8 because it may have influenced the actions of other people.
9 When somebody gives you information, whether the information is
10 right or wrong, it may cause you to do something else or act or
11 refrain from acting in a way. Go ahead.

12 Q. You can continue.

13 A. I've forgotten the question.

14 Q. You were describing your conversation with Mr. Tagliaferri.

15 A. Right. He told me the names of a number of equities I had
16 never heard of. I was surprised. Then he mentioned that she
17 had owned Costco and Apple. But there were a number of them in
18 large quantities of money at the time of their purchase that
19 were very small companies that seemed illogical to me.

20 Q. Do you remember any of the names of the companies, the
21 small companies?

22 A. I'm not sure I remember them all, but there was Gerova,
23 there was a company called Fund.com, and there were some others
24 I don't remember the names right now.

25 MS. MERMELSTEIN: May I approach, your Honor?

G9JOHIR4

Direct - Dr. Cole

1 THE COURT: You may.

2 Q. I've put in front of you what's been marked for
3 identification as 3503-4. Go ahead and read that to yourself
4 and then, when you're done, put it down.

5 A. Okay.

6 Q. Does that refresh your recollection about any of the other
7 companies that Mr. Tagliaferri mentioned?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What were those?

10 A. Recovery Energy, White Energy, and a company with the
11 symbol RIGI.

12 Q. What was Mr. Tagliaferri's demeanor during your call?

13 A. He sounded very nervous, and the fact that he sounded
14 nervous made me nervous.

15 Q. Were you satisfied with his explanations during that call?

16 A. No.

17 Q. What did you do?

18 A. I asked him to send me a copy of her statement. He said he
19 would have to ask her permission, and I said that was fine.
20 And he said having done that, he would send me a copy of her
21 statement.

22 Q. Did he, in fact, do that?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Did your mother continue to engage Mr. Tagliaferri as her
25 investment advisor?

G9JOHIR4

Direct - Dr. Cole

1 A. No. I called my mother after I finished that call and told
2 her it just sounded fishy to me, and within about two days she
3 closed his access to her account.

4 Q. Approximately how much money did your mother lose with
5 Mr. Tagliaferri?

6 A. About \$30 million.

7 Q. How has the decline in value in her accounts affected your
8 mother?

9 A. She felt essentially assaulted. She was sleepless, she was
10 very hurt. This was someone who she trusted since 1985. My
11 father's friend. And she had lost, I would say, most of her
12 assets to someone who she thought she could trust.

13 Q. Let me direct your attention to what's in evidence as
14 Government's Exhibit 390, which are your mother's statements.
15 It should be coming up on the screen. There's a hard copy in
16 front of you if that's easier. Let's wait for it to come up
17 for the jury, as well.

18 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Let's move to the September, 2010
19 statement, Ms. Sheinwald, and skip to page 702. Can we take
20 that down for one minute and let me just confer with defense
21 counsel?

22 THE COURT: Yes.

23 MS. MERMELSTEIN: I apologize.

24 (Pause)

25 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Can we have one moment, your Honor?

G9JOHIR4

Direct - Dr. Cole

1 I'm sorry.

2 THE COURT: Sure.

3 (Pause)

4 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Let me do it this way. Let's show
5 it just to the witness. Ms. Sheinwald, if you could pull up
6 this page, and the next page, pull them up side-by-side. If we
7 can now publish these to the jury, please.

8 Q. Dr. Cole, they're almost up. Here we go. In September of
9 2010, directing your attention to the equities section of the
10 statement, did your mother own any Gerova at that time?

11 A. I don't see Gerova on this list.

12 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Ms. Sheinwald, if we can skip next
13 to page 715, please, which is the October statement.

14 Q. Dr. Cole, how many shares, if at all, does your mother own
15 of Gerova in October of 2010?

16 A. 260,000 shares.

17 Q. Is that 80,000?

18 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Maybe you can blow it up.

19 THE WITNESS: 280,000, yes.

20 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Let's enlarge that section,
21 Ms. Sheinwald.

22 Q. What was the market value of those shares in October of
23 2010?

24 A. \$1,596,000.

25 MS. MERMELSTEIN: If we can move to page 729 to the

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Direct - Dr. Cole

1 November statement, please. If we can again zoom in,
2 Ms. Sheinwald.

3 Q. How many shares of Gerova were in your mother's account in
4 November of 2010?

5 A. 309,376 shares.

6 Q. And what was the stated value of those shares?

7 A. \$8,121,120.

8 Q. What percentage of her total assets did that represent?

9 A. 16 percent.

10 Q. Then if we can jump to page 744 to the December statement.
11 In December of 2010, how many Gerova shares did your mother
12 own?

13 A. 669,571 shares.

14 Q. What was the market value of those shares?

15 A. \$20,087,130.

16 Q. What percentage of her assets did that represent?

17 A. 37 percent.

18 MS. MERMELSTEIN: If we can move to page 758, please,
19 to the January, 2011 statement.

20 Q. How many shares of Gerova did your mother own in January of
21 2011?

22 A. 730,671.

23 Q. So the same as the prior month?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What was the market value?

G9JOHIR4

Direct - Dr. Cole

1 A. Just over \$15 million. \$15,344,000.

2 Q. So it's down several million dollars?

3 A. Yes.

4 MS. MERMELSTEIN: If we can then jump, please, to
5 page 768.

6 Q. If we look there, how many shares of Gerova does your
7 mother own in February of 2011?

8 A. It looks like the same number of just over 730,000 shares.

9 Q. What is the stated value?

10 A. \$3,857,942.88.

11 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Finally, if we can jump to page 775,
12 the March statement. If we can make sure we're highlighting
13 the second Gerova.

14 Q. How many shares of Gerova does your mother own in March of
15 2011?

16 A. The same number as before, 730,000 plus.

17 Q. What is indicated for their value?

18 A. There is no listed value.

19 Q. It's gone from a high of tens of millions of dollars to
20 zero?

21 A. Right.

22 MS. MERMELSTEIN: No further questions, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Cross examination?

24 MR. BIALE: No questions, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: You may step down, Dr. Cole. Thank you.

G9JOHIR4

Direct - Ms. Kram

1 Call your next witness.

2 MS. HECTOR: The government calls Kathy Kram.

3 KATHY KRAM,

4 called as a witness by the Government,

5 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

6 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Please be seated. State your name
7 and spell it for the record, please.

8 THE WITNESS: Kathy Kram. K-a-t-h-y, K-r-a-m.

9 THE COURT: You may inquire.

10 MS. HECTOR: Thank you, your Honor.

11 DIRECT EXAMINATION

12 BY MS. HECTOR:

13 Q. Good afternoon, Ms. Kram. What do you do for a living?

14 A. I'm a Professor Emeritus for Boston University.

15 Q. What type of areas do you teach?

16 A. I teach leadership and organizational behavior.

17 Q. Where do you live, what town?

18 A. I live in Framingham, Massachusetts.

19 Q. Are you familiar with an individual named James
20 Tagliaferri?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. How do you know him?

23 A. He was my parents' financial advisor for about 25 years.

24 Q. What are your parents' names?

25 A. Eleanor and Harvey Kram.

G9JOHIR4

Direct - Ms. Kram

1 Q. Are they still living?

2 A. No.

3 Q. When did your father pass away?

4 A. He passed away in March of 2009.

5 Q. When he was alive, was his account under his name?

6 A. Yes, it was.

7 Q. What did your father do for a living?

8 A. My father was an executive, a business executive for a
9 large manufacturing company.

10 Q. How would you describe his level of knowledge regarding
11 investments?

12 A. My dad was very knowledgable and liked to be actively
13 involved in investments decisions, and he consulted with James
14 Tagliaferri on a regular basis.

15 Q. Now let's turn to your mother. When did she pass away?

16 A. She passed away in November, 2011.

17 Q. What did she do for a living?

18 A. She was a full-time mother and housewife and then did some
19 part-time work later in life.

20 Q. How would you describe her level of knowledge about
21 investments or investing?

22 A. It was quite minimal. She really relied on my dad in that
23 area.

24 Q. How involved was she in investment decisions in her account
25 with Mr. Tagliaferri after your father passed away?

G9JOHIR4

Direct - Ms. Kram

1 A. She basically delegated it to him, relied on him and his
2 judgment.

3 Q. Now, at the time your father and mother were both alive,
4 were you generally aware of their investment strategy?

5 A. I was.

6 Q. What was it generally?

7 A. To preserve the capital that they had so they would have
8 something to pass on to their children.

9 MS. MERMELSTEIN: I'm going to ask Ms. Sheinwald, our
10 paralegal, to pull up a document that's going to come up on the
11 screen in front of you. If you could take a moment to look at
12 it, that's Government's Exhibit 1262. Looking at this
13 document, are you familiar with that email address at the top,
14 Harkram@aol?

15 A. That's my dad's old email.

16 Q. Okay. Now, is the j6395@aol.com address, is that
17 Mr. Tagliaferri's address?

18 A. I believe so, yes.

19 Q. What is the date of this email?

20 A. February 18th, 2009.

21 Q. So how close is that to when your father passed away?

22 A. That was just about two weeks, two and a half weeks before
23 my dad passed away.

24 Q. Could you read for us the email that Mr. Tagliaferri writes
25 to your father, starting with "we know goal"?

G9JOHIR4

Direct - Ms. Kram

1 A. "We know goal is to preserve capital, and since the annual
2 income forecast meets your cash flow needs, there is no reason
3 to spend the money. Email with further questions. Perhaps we
4 can chat in a week. Warm regards, Jim."

5 Q. How did your father respond to Mr. Tagliaferri?

6 A. He wrote, "Thank you, Jim. Your reply is what I needed.
7 Thank you. Wish we were closer so I could give you a hug.
8 Harvey Kram."

9 Q. You mentioned that your father unfortunately passed away a
10 couple of weeks after this email. What happened to his
11 investment account with Mr. Tagliaferri after he died?

12 A. It was put in my mother's name, and over the period of the
13 next two years, there was a tremendous decline.

14 Q. After the account passed to your mother, do you know who
15 made investment decisions with respect to that account?

16 A. Yes, it was entirely Mr. Tagliaferri.

17 Q. To your knowledge, what level of trust did your mother put
18 in Mr. Tagliaferri?

19 A. She put a lot of trust in him. They had a 25-year
20 relationship, and now that my dad was gone, he was the person
21 she would rely on.

22 Q. Did there come a time when your mother expressed concern to
23 you regarding her account with Mr. Tagliaferri?

24 A. Yes. That happened in early March of 2011.

25 Q. What, in general, was the nature of her concern?

G9JOHIR4

Direct - Ms. Kram

1 A. She was concerned because over the period of three months,
2 it appeared that the account had lost considerable value.

3 Q. When she expressed these concerns to you, approximately how
4 old was your mother at the time?

5 A. She was 88 years old.

6 Q. Prior to her expressing these concerns, did you have a
7 practice of regularly reviewing her account statements?

8 A. No, I did not.

9 Q. After your mother's call, did you come to look at her
10 account statements at some point?

11 A. Yeah. At some point, we actually did, because there was
12 such a dramatic loss in the account and we couldn't believe
13 what had happened.

14 Q. What did you learn when you looked at the account
15 statements?

16 A. Well, I saw that the account dropped from something like
17 \$780,000 to \$140,000.

18 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Let's look a little bit at those
19 statements. Ms. Sheinwald, could we pull up Government's
20 Exhibit 392? Just start with the first page.

21 Q. Do you recognize this cover page?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. It lists an individual Eleanor Kram. Is that your mother?

24 A. That's my mother.

25 Q. The date, the period indicated is April 21st, 2009 through

G9JOHIR4

Direct - Ms. Kram

1 April 30th, 2009.

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Remind us when your father passed away.

4 A. March 3rd, that same year, 2009.

5 MS. MERMELSTEIN: If we could turn to page 3 of this
6 document.

7 Q. What does this indicate is the total account value at this
8 time in April, 2009?

9 A. \$786,626.09.

10 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Can we advance to page 221 of this
11 document, Ms. Sheinwald? This is now going to be the account
12 statement dated March 1st through 31st of 2011. If we could
13 turn to the next page, 222.

14 Q. What is indicated as the value of the account now at the
15 end of March, 2011?

16 A. \$140,434.27.

17 Q. Is this the decline that you referred to?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Let's walk through a little bit more detail of what
20 happened. Let's go back to page 179. If you could look at the
21 top. What statement period does this account statement cover?

22 A. This is November 1st to 30th, 2010.

23 Q. Now turning to the next page, page 180. What's the total
24 value of the account at this time?

25 A. \$942,495.58.

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Direct - Ms. Kram

1 Q. Turning to page 182. Is this a listing of the account
2 holdings on that date, November 1st through 30th, 2010?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Do you see Gerova listed here?

5 A. I do.

6 Q. How many shares of Gerova are now listed in your mother's
7 account at this point?

8 A. 4,200.

9 Q. What's the value of those shares in total?

10 A. In total, \$110,250.

11 Q. What percentage of your mother's portfolio is in Gerova at
12 this time?

13 A. 12 percent.

14 Q. Now let's turn to page 189, please. Is this a statement
15 for the next month, December 1st through 31st, 2010?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Page 190, please. What is the total value of the account
18 here?

19 A. \$974,213.95.

20 Q. Turning to page 192, which should be the listing of stock
21 holdings. Do you see Gerova listed here?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Now what quantity of Gerova does your mother have?

24 A. 8,534 shares valued at \$256,020.

25 Q. What portion of your mother's portfolio is invested in

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Direct - Ms. Kram

1 Gerova?

2 A. 26 percent.

3 Q. Now could we go to page 201? Is this the statement dated
4 January 1st through 31st, 2011?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Page 202. Now it appears the total account value has
7 started to go down. What's the total account value?

8 A. \$880,070.34.

9 Q. Page 204. How many shares of Gerova?

10 A. There are now 10,034 shares, total value of \$210,714,
11 24 percent of the portfolio.

12 Q. We're just going to go through two more. Page 211. This
13 is the statement dated February 1st through 28th, 2011,
14 correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Now let's look at the total value of the account on the
17 next page, page 212. It appears to have gone down
18 significantly. What is the total value of the account now?

19 A. \$390,234.59.

20 Q. If you look at page 214, let's focus in on those Gerova
21 holdings. How many shares does your mother now have?

22 A. She now has 5,000 shares valued at a total of \$70,000.

23 Q. I'm sorry. Not to interrupt, but I think we're on the
24 wrong line.

25 A. Sorry.

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Direct - Ms. Kram

1 Q. That's fine.

2 A. It's 13,534 shares valued at \$71,459.52, making up
3 18 percent of the portfolio.

4 Q. Finally, the March account statement, page 221. This is
5 the statement dated March 1st through 31st, 2011, correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Page 222. This is where the account has dropped to 140,000
8 or so?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Finally, page 224. How many shares of Gerova does your
11 mother hold at this point?

12 A. 13,534 shares.

13 Q. What is the market price provided in the market value
14 provided?

15 A. It says "N/A".

16 Q. Fair to say --

17 A. It means it's worth nothing, yes.

18 Q. Now, Ms. Kram, did you reach out to Mr. Tagliaferri after
19 reviewing these statements?

20 A. I did. I called him on the telephone. Took me about five
21 tries to get him, and he -- I told him what I saw, and he said
22 it was -- he would make it good. I shouldn't worry, he would
23 make it good.

24 Q. What ultimately did you do with this account?

25 A. We closed it out. There was so little left, we just sold

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Direct - Ms. Kram

1 everything.

2 Q. Did anyone ever ultimately make it good for the losses that
3 your mother has suffered?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Did she ever receive back the money that she had lost?

6 A. No.

7 Q. How did the decline in value that took place while
8 Mr. Tagliaferri managed your mother's account impact her?

9 A. Oh, she was very, very disturbed and upset. I think it was
10 devastating to her.

11 MS. HECTOR: No further questions.

12 THE COURT: Any cross?

13 MR. BIALE: No questions, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am. You may step down.

15 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

16 THE COURT: Call your next witness.

17 MS. MERMELSTEIN: The government calls Mr. Jamie
18 Patturelli.

19 JAMIE PATTURELLI,

20 called as a witness by the Government,

21 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

22 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Please state your name for the
23 record and spell it.

24 THE WITNESS: Jamie Patturelli. J-a-m-i-e,
25 P-a-t-t-u-r-e-l-l-i.

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Direct - Mr. Patturelli

1 THE COURT: You may inquire.

2 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Thank you, your Honor.

3 DIRECT EXAMINATION

4 BY MS. MERMELSTEIN:

5 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Patturelli. Where do you work?

6 A. New York Stock Exchange.

7 Q. How long have you worked at the New York Stock Exchange?

8 A. Approximately 15 years.

9 Q. Where did you work before that?

10 A. The American Stock Exchange.

11 Q. Is that also known as the Amex?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. How long did you work at the Amex?

14 A. Eight years.

15 Q. What is the current relationship between the Amex and the
16 New York Stock Exchange?

17 A. The New York Stock Exchange acquired the American Stock
18 Exchange in 2008, so it's a wholly owned subsidiary.

19 Q. What title do you currently hold?

20 A. A director.

21 Q. For most of your tenure at, first Amex and then the New
22 York Stock Exchange, what area did you work in?

23 A. Primarily in the regulatory and compliance area at the
24 Exchange.

25 Q. What is the regulatory and compliance area?

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Direct - Mr. Patturelli

1 A. It's a group within the Exchange that's responsible for
2 reviewing and approving companies and products for listing on
3 the Stock Exchange.

4 Q. Are you in that area now?

5 A. No.

6 Q. What area are you currently in?

7 A. I'm currently in our exchange traded funds group
8 responsible for bringing new products and ETFs to listing for
9 the Stock Exchange.

10 Q. In your various roles at the New York Stock Exchange and
11 Amex, have you become familiar with the general workings of
12 both the Amex and New York Stock Exchange?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. In particular, have you become familiar with how stocks
15 become listed and maintain their listings?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Are you also familiar with how the Amex and New York Stock
18 Exchange maintain records, including email communications and
19 other correspondence?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Let's start from the very beginning. What is a stock
22 exchange?

23 A. Stock exchange is a central marketplace where retail and
24 institutional investors can acquire ownership in corporations,
25 usually in the form of equity or common stock.

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Direct - Mr. Patturelli

1 Q. Are there different kinds of exchanges?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What are some of the bigger ones?

4 A. So you have the New York Stock Exchange, which generally
5 lists some of your larger companies in the world. You also
6 have the NYC MKT, which is formerly the American Stock
7 Exchange, generally for smaller or nano-cap companies.

8 THE COURT: What cap companies?

9 THE WITNESS: Nano or micro-cap companies.

10 THE COURT: You mean small?

11 THE WITNESS: Small companies, correct.

12 THE COURT: Thank you.

13 A. You also have the NASDAQ, which is generally companies of
14 all size, and that's about it.

15 Q. Are there requirements for being listed on the New York
16 Stock Exchange or Amex?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. In broad terms, what kinds of requirements are those?

19 A. The requirements generally are quantitative in nature.
20 Usually price, market capitalization, and other measures based
21 on shareholders or liquidity.

22 Q. When you say "quantitative in nature", you mean just
23 numbers, you have to meet a certain number qualifications.

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. What is the general purpose of those requirements?

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Direct - Mr. Patturelli

1 A. The primary purpose is to ensure that companies can meet
2 certain liquidity requirements so that investors can buy and
3 sell the securities on the Stock Exchange.

4 Q. What do you mean by liquidity requirements?

5 A. Liquidity we're generally looking at volume and
6 shareholders to ensure there's enough of a public distribution
7 so that if an investor wants to purchase the securities,
8 they're available for sale.

9 Q. What is the process by which a company first becomes listed
10 on the Amex or the New York Stock Exchange?

11 A. A company or its representatives primarily work with legal
12 counsel, or potentially do it internally, but they usually --

13 MS. HARRIS: Objection.

14 THE COURT: No, I'm going to allow it. Go ahead.

15 A. Companies usually work through their legal counsel and
16 other internal executives and approach the stock exchange.
17 Generally on our business side of the exchange, in my function
18 previously, that's a regulatory function within the exchange,
19 and the business group is responsible for soliciting companies
20 to list on the exchange. Once those companies are in the
21 exchange, it moves over to the regulatory team, which is
22 responsible for reviewing the company to determine whether they
23 meet the listing standards for listing.

24 Q. When a company is being reviewed to see if it meets the
25 listing requirements, what kind of information does the New

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Direct - Mr. Patturelli

1 York Stock Exchange or Amex gather about the company?

2 A. We generally request information with regards to the
3 shareholders of the company. We also have financial statements
4 that we're reviewing. We also look at corporate organizational
5 documents, articles of incorporations, bylaws. And then we're
6 also looking at the corporate governance for the company,
7 generally looking at audit committee and nominating committees,
8 determining whether they have the appropriate number of
9 independent directors on the board, as well.

10 Q. Do you look at who the officers and directors of a company
11 are?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What about the significant shareholders?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Do you look at consulting agreements that the company has?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Why does the Amex or New York Stock Exchange want
18 information about a consulting agreement?

19 A. Sometimes in the past, individuals that have been barred or
20 have some significant regulatory or SEC issues or bans
21 sometimes work with public companies in the context of a
22 consulting agreement or investor relations agreement. We often
23 request information on those agreements, and we also do
24 regulatory background checks on those individuals, similarly
25 that we do on officers and directors, as well.

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Direct - Mr. Patturelli

1 Q. After a company is listed on the New York Stock Exchange or
2 the Amex, what, if anything, does it have to do to maintain
3 that listing?

4 A. Companies have to maintain similar quantitative criteria as
5 the initial listing, however the requirements are generally
6 lesser. But generally, price requirements, market
7 capitalization requirements, and then other balance sheet or
8 financial statement type items.

9 Q. What, if anything, does the Amex or the New York Stock
10 Exchange do to monitor the companies that are listed on the
11 exchange?

12 A. Throughout the year, periodically, an analyst would
13 continuously monitor whether a company continues to meet those
14 continued listing criteria throughout the year, generally
15 looking at publicly available information in order to make that
16 assessment.

17 Q. What actions are available to the Amex or the New York
18 Stock Exchange if a company fails to meet the requirements to
19 maintain its continued listing?

20 A. The most severe consequence is delisting from the Stock
21 Exchange.

22 Q. What are the intermediate consequences?

23 A. There could be periods of time where a company is given a
24 grace period in order to potentially come back into compliance.

25 Q. Does the Amex or New York Stock Exchange ever solicit

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Direct - Mr. Patturelli

1 information from a company in connection with monitoring
2 whether or not it should continue to be listed?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Let's turn to some company specific here. Are you familiar
5 with a company called the Asia Special Situations Acquisition
6 Corp.?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. How are you familiar with that company?

9 A. That was a special purpose acquisition company that listed
10 on the American Stock Exchange in 2008.

11 Q. What was your work on that?

12 A. I was responsible for the group at the American Stock
13 Exchange that reviewed Asia Special Situation for listing on
14 the Stock Exchange.

15 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Let's pull up what is in evidence as
16 Government's Exhibit 550.

17 Q. Mr. Patturelli, the document should come up on your screen,
18 but if it's easier, in the Redweld there's copies for you, as
19 well.

20 What is this document?

21 A. So this is a corporate governance certification form. This
22 would have been required by all companies initially listing on
23 the Exchange to provide at the time of listing.

24 Q. Who is this a corporate governance certification form for?

25 A. This is for Asia Special Situations Acquisition Corp.

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Direct - Mr. Patturelli

1 MS. MERMELSTEIN: If we can jump, Ms. Sheinwald, to
2 the last page, please.

3 Q. Who signed this document on behalf of Asia Special
4 Situations Acquisition Corp.?

5 A. Gary Hirst.

6 Q. What is Gary Hirst's title?

7 A. Gary Hirst is the president.

8 MS. MERMELSTEIN: You can take that down. Thank you,
9 Ms. Sheinwald.

10 Q. Did there come a time when Asia Special Situations
11 Acquisition Corp. changed its name?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What did it change its name to?

14 A. It changed its name to Gerova Financial Group.

15 Q. What caused that change?

16 A. It was a merger between Asia Special Acquisition Corp. and
17 Gerova.

18 Q. So it ceased to become a SPAC.

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Did the new company, now called Gerova, have to continue to
21 meet the Amex listing requirements?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did it have any issues in doing so?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What were those issues?

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Direct - Mr. Patturelli

1 A. When the company completed the acquisition, one of the
2 primary issues was the inability to meet our shareholder
3 distribution requirements.

4 Q. If a company can't meet the shareholder distribution
5 requirements, what are the consequences?

6 A. The consequences would be delisting from the Exchange.

7 Q. Let's take a look at Government's Exhibit 552 in evidence.
8 Let's start with this cover email. Who sent this email?

9 A. This email is from Stephen Weiss at Hodgson Russ.

10 Q. Who is CCed on here?

11 A. Gary Hirst.

12 Q. Let's turn to the next page, to the attachment, please.
13 What is attached to that email?

14 A. It's an exhibit with regards to potential delisting of the
15 company.

16 Q. It's the government's response?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Excuse me, the company's response?

19 A. Correct.

20 MS. MERMELSTEIN: If we can turn to the last page of
21 that letter, please, Ms. Sheinwald.

22 Q. Who has signed that letter?

23 A. Gary Hirst.

24 Q. What is his title?

25 A. President.

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Direct - Mr. Patturelli

1 Q. Was Gerova ultimately able to maintain its listing?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Let's turn next to Government's Exhibit 553 in evidence.

4 Let's look at the email that's on the bottom half of that page.

5 Who is sending that email?

6 A. That's from Matt McSweeney at the New York Stock Exchange.

7 Q. Who is Matt McSweeney?

8 A. Matt McSweeney was an analyst that was primarily responsible
9 for reviewing companies such as Gerova that completed an
10 application.

11 Q. What is this email asking for?

12 A. Specific information to assess whether the listing should
13 be continued on the American Stock Exchange.

14 MS. MERMELSTEIN: If we can turn to page 3,
15 Ms. Sheinwald. I take it back. Let's go to the second page of
16 that, please. If we can look at item number 3, please.

17 Q. What is being asked for in item number 3?

18 A. Copies of all consulting agreements, investment banking
19 agreements, and investor relation agreements.

20 Q. Again, why does the New York Stock Exchange or Amex want
21 copies of all consulting agreements?

22 A. Primarily, to do regulatory background reviews on
23 individuals that are involved with these type of companies.

24 Q. Let's turn to Government's Exhibit 554 in evidence.

25 Starting with the cover email, again, who has sent this email?

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Direct - Mr. Patturelli

1 A. That's from Stephen Weiss at Hodgson Russ.

2 Q. Is Gary Hirst one of the people who is receiving that
3 email?

4 A. Yes.

5 MS. MERMELSTEIN: If we can zoom back out for a
6 moment.

7 Q. What does the cover email say?

8 A. Would you like me to read the --

9 Q. You can paraphrase.

10 A. So this is information from Stephen Weiss providing
11 response to the request from Matt McSweeney.

12 Q. Let's look at the actual attached letter. If we can skip
13 to what's page 3 of the letter but page 5 of this document.
14 Without reading all of the content here, can you just list the
15 name of the entities or individuals with whom Gerova has a
16 consulting agreement?

17 A. White Lion & Company, Huntley Consulting, Maxim Group, LLC,
18 Roth Capital, LLC, and Hill & Knowlton.

19 Q. Is there any listing for a consulting agreement with Ymer
20 Shahini?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Then turning to the last page of that document, who has
23 signed that letter?

24 A. Gary Hirst.

25 Q. After receiving this letter, did the New York Stock

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Direct - Mr. Patturelli

1 Exchange receive any supplemental information about additional
2 consulting agreements that Gerova had?

3 A. Not that I'm aware of.

4 Q. Have you reviewed the correspondence and communications
5 with Gerova on this topic?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Let's turn quickly to Government's Exhibit 558 in evidence.
8 I assume that there was no retraction of that letter?

9 A. Not that I'm aware of.

10 Q. Did there come a time that Gerova moved off of the Amex?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Why was that?

13 A. Gerova moved towards listing on the New York Stock
14 Exchange.

15 Q. Let's turn to page 2 of this document. What is this?

16 A. So this is additional information -- additional information
17 with regards to the listing on the NYC Amex or the American
18 Stock Exchange.

19 MS. MERMELSTEIN: If we can turn to the last page of
20 that document, please. One back. There we go.

21 Q. Who signed that document?

22 A. Gary Hirst.

23 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Let's turn to Government's
24 Exhibit 561, please. Turn to the next page.

25 Q. What is this letter?

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Direct - Mr. Patturelli

1 A. This is a notification from Gerova to the NYC Amex
2 notifying of its intent to list its securities on the New York
3 Stock Exchange.

4 Q. Again, who has signed that?

5 A. Gary Hirst.

6 Q. Let's turn to Government's Exhibit 560, please. Did there
7 come a time when Gerova went through a reverse share split?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What is a reverse share split?

10 A. A reverse share split is when a company splits its stock to
11 generally achieve a higher price. So if it's a stock that's
12 trading on \$1, it would reduce the number of shares
13 outstanding, and if it was a 5 to 1, stock would go from \$1 to
14 \$5.

15 Q. Does a reverse stock split like that implicate listing
16 requirements?

17 A. Sometimes, potentially.

18 Q. In what way?

19 A. Companies sometimes do a reverse stock split in order to
20 meet certain price requirements for the Exchange.

21 Q. What were the price requirements in 2010 for the New York
22 Stock Exchange?

23 A. For the New York Stock Exchange it would have been \$4 per
24 share.

25 Q. So if your stock price was less than \$4 per share, you

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Direct - Mr. Patturelli

1 can't stay listed.

2 A. You cannot list initially.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. There's lesser requirements from an ongoing perspective.

5 Q. Got it. Let's turn to Government's Exhibit 568, please.

6 Let's look at the email on the bottom part of that page. Who
7 is that email from?

8 A. It's from Gary Hirst.

9 Q. What topic is being discussed in that email?

10 A. It's the discussion with regards to the potential
11 shareholders of, presumably, Gerova Financial Group.

12 Q. How it affected the numbers of shareholders?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Why is that significant?

15 A. Because the initial listing requirements to list on the New
16 York Stock Exchange require a minimum number of public
17 shareholders, ground amount of public shareholders.

18 Q. Was that information then provided to the New York Stock
19 Exchange?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Who is Victoria Paper?

22 A. Victoria Paper is another member of the New York Stock
23 Exchange that worked in the regulatory and compliance area.

24 Q. Let's turn to Government's Exhibit 569, please. What is
25 this letter?

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Direct - Mr. Patturelli

1 A. So this is a letter from CK Cooper & Company providing some
2 additional information with regards to certain shareholders
3 that potentially held Gerova stock.

4 Q. How many shareholders does this letter concern?

5 A. A total of five clients.

6 Q. Is it unusual for five clients to make the difference
7 between a company meeting and not meeting shareholder
8 requirements?

9 A. Yes.

10 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Let's turn next to Government's
11 Exhibits 579 and 580, please. Let's start with 579,
12 Ms. Sheinwald.

13 Q. What is the date of this email?

14 A. Thursday, January 13th, 2011.

15 Q. Who are the recipients?

16 A. The recipients are some individual with the last name
17 Bianco at Yahoo, Gary Hirst, Eric Pinero, and then the next
18 four individuals are all New York Stock Exchange employees.

19 Q. If we can turn to the attachment, Government's Exhibit 580,
20 please. What is the date of this letter?

21 A. January 13th, 2011.

22 Q. Who is it to?

23 A. It's to Gary Hirst and Joseph Bianco.

24 MS. MERMELSTEIN: If we can zoom in on the first
25 paragraph, please, Ms. Sheinwald.

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Direct - Mr. Patturelli

1 Q. If I can ask you to read that.

2 A. Sure. "NYSE regulation on behalf of the New York Stock
3 Exchange, a self-regulatory organization, has the
4 responsibility to review and investigate allegations about NYSE
5 listed issuers. On January 5th, 2011, an article about Gerova
6 Financial Group, Ltd. was published on the Forbes.com website
7 which makes certain allegations about the company and its
8 apparent affiliation with Mr. Jason Galanis. A copy of the
9 article is attached. In order to enable NYSE regulation to
10 assess the allegations, pursuant to the company's listing
11 agreement with NYSE, in Section 901.002 of the listed company
12 manual, please respond to the following."

13 Q. Then there's a list of requests of information to be
14 provided to the New York Stock Exchange?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Is that the substance of the letter?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Did the New York Stock Exchange also become aware of some
19 other press about Gerova around the same time?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. In particular, did they become aware of a Dalrymple report?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And an article in the Bermuda Sun?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Let's turn to Government's Exhibit 584. Did Gerova issue a

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Direct - Mr. Patturelli

1 press release in response to the negative articles?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Looking at the bottom part of the page there, who is
4 sending the email?

5 A. Gary Hirst.

6 Q. What is the first line, if you can read the first line of
7 the email?

8 A. "Attached is our proposed press release, to be sent out
9 before the market opens tomorrow."

10 MS. MERMELSTEIN: We can zoom back out, please,
11 Ms. Sheinwald.

12 Q. Did the New York Stock Exchange seek further information
13 from Gerova following these press reports?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Let's turn to Government's Exhibit 583, please. If we can
16 look at the email on the bottom half of that page. Who is
17 sending that email?

18 A. This is an email from Glen Tyranski, who was a senior vice
19 president in the NYC regulation and compliance area.

20 Q. Who is the email to?

21 A. Gary Hirst.

22 Q. If you could read the first line of that email, please.

23 A. "Thank you for participating on this afternoon's conference
24 call with NYSE in response to today's Bermuda Sun article."

25 Q. Let me ask you to read two more sentences.

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Direct - Mr. Patturelli

1 A. Sure. "We mailed as well as delivered electronically a
2 letter to your outside legal counsel Eric Pinero yesterday that
3 requested further information on the recent events surrounding
4 the company. Upon receipt of your response and subsequent
5 review of that information, then a possible follow up meeting
6 with the executive management and board members would be
7 considered, not before."

8 Q. Let's move to Government's Exhibit 587, please. Let's
9 start on page 3. Let's start at the bottom of that email. Who
10 is Cynthia Melo?

11 A. Cynthia Melo was an employee within NYSE regulation
12 primarily responsible for our continued listing group.

13 Q. What is she asking for in this email?

14 A. She's asking for a status on the response to the NYSE
15 letter dated January 13th, 2011.

16 Q. That was the letter asking for more information about
17 filing the press report?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. How does Steve Weiss respond?

20 A. Steve indicates that, "It's being delivered today with
21 exhibits sent by Federal Express."

22 Q. Who is CCed on that email?

23 A. Gary Hirst and Eric Pinero.

24 Q. If we can go to the first page of this document, please.
25 At the bottom of that page, again, who is sending the email?

G9JOHIR4

Direct - Mr. Patturelli

1 A. Steve Weiss.

2 Q. And who is CCed?

3 A. Edgar Pinero, Eric Pinero, and Gary Hirst.

4 Q. And substantively, what does Steve Weiss say about the
5 response from Gerova?

6 A. Steve indicated that an electronic copy of the response
7 letter was attached to the email and that exhibits are not all
8 included in the email, but two additional sets will be
9 messengered.

10 THE COURT: With that news, Ladies and Gentlemen, it's
11 time for our mid-afternoon break. Please do not discuss the
12 case amongst yourselves or with anyone. See you back in action
13 in 10 minutes. Thank you.

14 (Recess)

15 (Continued on next page)

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Patturelli - Direct

1 (Jury present)

2 THE COURT: Ms. Mermelstein, whenever you're ready.

3 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Thank you, your Honor.

4 BY MS. MERMELSTEIN:

5 Q. Mr. Patturelli, before we took the break, we were talking
6 about the Exchange's request for additional information from
7 Gerova in light of various press reports.

8 Let's, returning to that topic, pull up Government
9 Exhibit 589.

10 Let me ask you this. Did the New York Stock Exchange
11 receive a response to its request for information concerning
12 Jason Galanis?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What is the date of that letter?

15 A. January 28, 2011.

16 Q. Toward the bottom of that page, what does item 1 request?

17 JUROR: We don't have it up here.

18 Q. So what did item 1 request?

19 A. A description of Mr. Galanis's activities and
20 responsibilities during the past five years with or on behalf
21 of the company and/or its subsidiaries.

22 Q. If we can turn to the second page, please.

23 If you can read the last sentence on that page and
24 then on to the next page starting "as set forth below."

25 A. "As set forth below, in November 2009, Mr. Galanis

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Patturelli - Direct

1 introduced to the company board of directors the opportunity to
2 acquire the Stillwater fund assets, and Joseph Bianco (then a
3 consultant to the company) introduced to the company the
4 opportunity to acquire assets of the Wimbledon funds."

5 Q. Then if can turn to page 10 of this document, please.

6 What does item 6 request?

7 A. It requests "to provide the detail of all related party
8 transactions not already included in your response."

9 Q. If we can turn to page 11, please.

10 If you can read the last paragraph in item 6. So it's
11 the paragraph before 7 beginning with "in March 2010."

12 A. "In March 2010, prior to Mr. Galanis's employment by Geroval
13 Advisors, LLC, the company agreed to issue Mr. Galanis a
14 three-year warrant entitling the holder to purchase up to 2.2
15 million of our ordinary shares at an exercise price of \$37.50
16 per share."

17 Q. Keep going.

18 A. "The warrant was issued in lieu of cash payment of a fee
19 that we had previously agreed to pay to Mr. Galanis or his
20 assigns in consideration for his facilitating our acquisition
21 of the assets of the Wimbledon funds in January 2010 and his
22 introduction of Keith R. Harris and the opportunity to acquire
23 Seymour Pierce. We valued the warrant at \$2.2 million, or
24 \$1.00 per warrant share, which was the average of the closing
25 prices of our publicly traded warrants during the 30 days prior

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Patturelli - Direct

1 to March 29, 2010 (adjusted for the 1-5 reverse stock split).
2 On the date of issuance of the warrants the closing price of
3 our ordinary shares was \$28.80 on a split adjusted basis. Mr.
4 Galanis advises that he transferred the warrants to a limited
5 partnership unrelated to the company or its business, in
6 connection his capital contribution to the partnership and in
7 consideration for a settlement agreement with the general
8 partner. Mr. Galanis advises that he was never a general
9 partner of such partnership, nor did he control a majority
10 limited partnership interests. He further advises that in 2010
11 he ceased being a limited partner in the limited partnership."

12 MS. MERMELSTEIN: If we can go to the last page of
13 that document, please.

14 Q. Who signed this letter to the New York Stock Exchange?

15 A. Gary Hirst.

16 Q. Now, following the news reports concerning Jason Galanis in
17 2011, did Gerova continue to trade on the New York Stock
18 Exchange?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Until approximately when?

21 A. I believe sometime earlier in the -- sometime earlier in
22 2011.

23 Q. You don't know the exact date?

24 A. I do not.

25 Q. What happened early that year that changed the status of

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1 Gerova?

2 A. At some point there became issues with regards to the
3 company's ability to file certain financial statements with the
4 SEC, as well as the issues surrounding Mr. Galanis.

5 Q. Was trading halted?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did Gerova ever resume trading on the New York Stock
8 Exchange?

9 A. No.

10 Q. What eventually happened to Gerova?

11 A. Eventually its securities were delisted from the Stock
12 Exchange.

13 MS. MERMELSTEIN: No further questions.

14 THE COURT: You may cross-examine.

15 MS. HARRIS: No questions.

16 THE COURT: You may step down. Thank you sir.

17 (Witness excused)

18 MR. BLAIS: At this time, we have more stipulations to
19 read.

20 THE COURT: All right.

21 MR. BLAIS: I am reading now from Government Exhibit
22 1505.

23 "It is hereby stipulated and agreed by the parties,
24 through their counsel, that:

25 "On March 1, 2010, Gerova Financial Group issued a

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1 press release stating that it had received a delisting
2 notification from the NYSE Amex.

3 "It is further stipulated and agreed by and among the
4 parties that this stipulation is admissible as a government
5 exhibit at trial."

6 It is dated September 6 and signed by the parties.

7 The government offers Government Exhibit 1505.

8 THE COURT: Any objection?

9 MR. TREMONTE: No.

10 THE COURT: That's received into evidence.

11 (Government's Exhibit 1505 received in evidence)

12 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, a stipulation of
13 fact is an agreement between the parties that a certain fact is
14 established or is true. You must accept it as established and
15 true, but the weight that you give to it, if any, is entirely
16 up to you, ladies and gentlemen of the jury.

17 Go ahead.

18 MR. BLAIS: Now I am going to read from Government
19 Exhibit 1507.

20 "It is hereby stipulated and agreed by the parties,
21 through their counsel, that:

22 "1. From at least in or about 2009, up to and
23 including at least October 2010, the New York Stock Exchange
24 (the "NYSE") maintained computer servers at 55 Water Street,
25 New York, New York (the "Manhattan Servers"), among other

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1 locations.

2 "2. In 2010, purchases and sales of shares of Gerova
3 Financial Group ("Gerova") were executed over the Manhattan
4 Servers, among other servers.

5 "It is further stipulated and agreed by and among the
6 parties that this stipulation is admissible as a government
7 exhibit at trial."

8 It is dated September 7 and signed by the party.

9 The government offers Government Exhibit 1507.

10 MR. TREMONTE: No objection.

11 THE COURT: Received.

12 (Government's Exhibit 1507 received in evidence)

13 MR. BLAIS: I am now reading from Government Exhibit
14 1502.

15 "It is hereby stipulated and agreed by and among the
16 parties, through their counsel, that Government Exhibit 900 is
17 a chart reflecting true and accurate daily share price and
18 trading volume in Gerova stock for the dates specified.

19 "It is further stipulated and agreed by and among the
20 parties that this stipulation and the government exhibit set
21 forth herein are admissible as government exhibits at trial."

22 It is dated September 5 and signed by the parties.

23 The exhibit was actually admitted through other means.
24 So at this time, the government would simply offer the
25 stipulation, Government Exhibit 1502.

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1 MR. TREMONTE: No objection.

2 THE COURT: Received.

3 (Government's Exhibit 1502 received in evidence)

4 MR. BLAIS: I am now reading from Government Exhibit
5 1503.

6 "It is hereby stipulated and agreed by the parties,
7 through their counsel, that:

8 "1. From at least June 2010 through at least
9 September 2010, the cellular telephone number (415) 632-7047
10 was subscribed in the name Jared Galanis.

11 "2. At certain times, John Galanis communicated with
12 Gavin Hamels using the cellular telephone (415) 632-7047 while
13 purporting to be Jared Galanis.

14 "3. From at least 2008 through at least 2011, the
15 e-mail address jmg@sentinellawgroup.com was subscribed in the
16 name of Jared Galanis and was used by both Jared Galanis and
17 John Galanis.

18 "It is further stipulated and agreed by and among the
19 parties that this stipulation is admissible as a government
20 exhibit at trial."

21 It is dated September 5 and signed by the parties.

22 Your Honor, at this time, the government offers
23 Government Exhibit 1503.

24 MR. TREMONTE: No objection.

25 THE COURT: Received.

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(Government's Exhibit 1503 received in evidence)

MR. BLAIS: I am now reading from Government Exhibit 1504.

"It is hereby stipulated and agreed by the parties, through their counsel, that:

"If called to testify, the respective records custodians for (1) Valley National Bank (Government Exhibits 400-409; (2) the National Credit Union Administration (Government Exhibits 410-412, 417-424, and 426-427); (3) Wells Fargo (Government Exhibits 413-416; (4) Fedwire (Government Exhibits 428-429; and (5) COR Clearing (Government Exhibit 430), will testify as follows:

"1. That the government exhibits set forth herein are true and correct copies of bank or other financial records that were created, kept and maintained in the ordinary course of business of the above-named entities.

"2. These records were created by persons with knowledge of, or created from information transmitted by persons with knowledge of, the information shown, and were created at or near the time the information became available.

"It is further stipulated and agreed by and among the parties that this stipulation is admissible as a government exhibit at trial."

At this time, the government would offer Government Exhibits 400 through 409, 410 through 412, 413 through 416, 417

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1 through 424, 426 through 430, and the stipulation, which is
2 Government Exhibit 1504.

3 MR. TREMONTE: No objection.

4 THE COURT: Received.

5 (Government's Exhibits 400-409, 410-412, 413-416,
6 417-424, 426-430, and 1504 received in evidence)

7 MR. BLAIS: I am reading from 1506.

8 "It is hereby stipulated and agreed by and among the
9 parties, through their counsel, that:

10 "If called to testify a records custodians from
11 Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") will testify as
12 follows:

13 "1. Government Exhibit 425 is a spreadsheet of all
14 trading data provided to the SEC reflecting trades of a stock
15 of a public company, Gerova Financial Group. Government
16 Exhibit 425 constitutes a true and accurate set of the trade
17 data received and then maintained by the SEC.

18 "2. These records were created by persons with
19 knowledge of, or created from information transmitted by
20 persons with knowledge of, the information shown, and were
21 created at or near the time the information became available.

22 "It is further stipulated and agreed by and among the
23 parties that this stipulation is admissible as a government
24 exhibit at trial."

25 It is dated September 6 and signed by the parties.

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1 At this time, the government offers Government Exhibit
2 425 and the stipulation, which is Government Exhibit 1506.

3 MR. TREMONTE: No objection.

4 THE COURT: Received.

5 (Government's Exhibits 425 and 1506 received in
6 evidence)

7 MR. BLAIS: The final one. This is Government Exhibit
8 1514.

9 "It is hereby stipulated and agreed by the parties,
10 through their counsel, that:

11 "Government Exhibits 1000 through 1019, 1021 through
12 1024, 1026 through 1028, 1031 through 1033, 1036, 1038 through
13 1055, 1058 through 1086, 1097 and 1101 are e-mails produced by
14 1&1 Mail Media, Inc. in response to a search warrant. The
15 e-mails contained in the government exhibits I just named were
16 retrieved from 1&1 Mail Media, Inc. servers from the e-mail
17 account associated with the e-mail address ymer@europe.com and
18 were maintained by 1&1 Mail Media, Inc. as part of its
19 regularly conducted business activity.

20 "2. The e-mail address ymer@europe.com is subscribed
21 in the name Ymer Shahini.

22 "3. Government Exhibits 1088 through 1089, 1091
23 through 1094, 1096, 1098 through 1099, and 1102 to 1103 are
24 e-mails produced by Google, Inc. in response to a search
25 warrant. The e-mails contained in the government exhibits I

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1 just named were retrieved from Google, Inc. servers from the
2 e-mail account associated with the e-mail address
3 galanis2008@gmail.com and were maintained by Google, Inc. as
4 part of its regularly conducted business activity.

5 "4. The e-mail address galanis2008@gmail.com is
6 subscribed in the name Derek Galanis.

7 "It is further stipulated and agreed by and among the
8 parties that this stipulation and the government exhibits set
9 forth herein are admissible as government exhibits at trial."

10 It is dated September 19 and signed by the parties.

11 Your Honor, the government offers the government
12 exhibits named in this stipulation and the stipulation, which
13 is Government Exhibit 1514.

14 MR. TREMONTE: No objection.

15 THE COURT: They are received.

16 (Government's Exhibits 1000 through 1019, 1021 through
17 1024, 1026 through 1028, 1031 through 1033, 1036, 1038 through
18 1055, 1058 through 1086, 1097 and 1101, 1088 through 1089, 1091
19 through 1094, 1096, 1098 through 1099, 1102 to 1103 and 1514
20 received in evidence)

21 MS. MERMELSTEIN: The government calls Mr. Gavin
22 Hamels.

23 GAVIN HAMELS,

24 called as a witness by the government,

25 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

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Hamels - Direct

1 THE DEPUTY CLERK: State your name, spell it for the
2 record, please.

3 THE WITNESS: Gavin Hamels, G-A-V-I-N, H-A-M-E-L-S.

4 THE COURT: You may inquire.

5 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Thank you, your Honor.

6 DIRECT EXAMINATION

7 BY MS. MERMELSTEIN:

8 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Hamels.

9 A. Good afternoon.

10 Q. How old are you?

11 A. I'm 40.

12 Q. Are you married?

13 A. I am.

14 Q. Do you have children?

15 A. Yes. Two.

16 Q. Can you walk us through your educational background?

17 A. I did my undergraduate degree at Harvard in economics and a
18 master's in business at USC.

19 Q. Were you involved in any significant activities in college?

20 A. Yes. I played football in college.

21 Q. What did you do when you finished your MBA?

22 A. I went to work for a small investment bank based in San
23 Francisco doing institutional sales.

24 Q. What was the name of that investment bank?

25 A. C.E. Unterberg, Towbin.

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Hamels - Direct

1 Q. Approximately when did you start there?

2 A. In August of 2003.

3 Q. Very generally speaking, what did you do at C.E. Unterberg?

4 A. It was more of a sales job. So we would sell securities,
5 for example, IPOs or public offerings. We would arrange
6 private financing for companies, mostly technology and
7 health-care companies. Also, we had a research department
8 where I would communicate the research that our analysts
9 performed to investors, mutual fund managers, hedge fund
10 managers, various investment advisers.

11 Q. Did you hold any licenses while you were at C.E. Unterberg?

12 A. Yes. A Series 7 and a Series 63 licenses.

13 Q. What kind of licenses are those?

14 A. Those are licenses to sell securities, like stocks, bonds,
15 mutual funds, and also to advise on investments to individuals
16 or investment advisers.

17 Q. In which office of C.E. Unterberg did you start working
18 when you began?

19 A. I started in the San Francisco office.

20 Q. Did there come a time you left the San Francisco office?

21 A. They ended up closing the San Francisco office and I moved
22 to the headquarters office in New York in 2005.

23 Q. How long did you work in the New York office?

24 A. For almost two years.

25 Q. Was that generally in the same role?

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Hamels - Direct

1 A. Yes, the same role.

2 Q. What did you do at the end of that two years?

3 A. At the end of that two years I moved back to San Diego,
4 where I am from originally, to work with a friend of mine as an
5 investment adviser for a small firm in San Diego.

6 Q. What was the name of that small firm?

7 A. Martin Kelly Capital Management.

8 Q. What led you to work there?

9 A. I was ready to move home to San Diego and go into business
10 with one of my close friends from growing up. He had just
11 started a firm Martin Kelly about six months before I moved
12 back to San Diego so I went into business working with him.

13 Q. What is the friends's name?

14 A. Billy Crafton.

15 Q. What was your role at Martin Kelly Capital?

16 A. I was a portfolio manager. So mainly I was analyzing
17 investments, placing investments in client accounts, for
18 instance, bonds and mutual funds, things of that nature. And
19 analyzing various investments clients were interested in
20 investing in, they would bring us a proposal for, it could be a
21 real estate transaction or something private, and I would
22 evaluate those types of deals as well.

23 Q. Who were most of Martin Kelly's clients?

24 A. They were mostly professional athletes and a few just
25 wealthy individuals.

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Hamels - Direct

1 Q. What was Billy Crafton's role at Martin Kelly Capital?

2 A. He was the president, he was the owner, as well as the main
3 client relations in client advisers. He dealt directly with
4 them when they had questions about their accounts or various
5 financial matters related to them. And he was also kind of a
6 main business development person, where he would go out and
7 acquire new clients and maintain those relationships.

8 Q. Did you have an ownership interest in Martin Kelly?

9 A. No, I did not.

10 Q. What, if any, change in salary did you agree to in moving
11 from C.E. Unterberg to Martin Kelly?

12 A. It was a pretty significant drop. I had a very good year;
13 my last year at Unterberg, I made over \$600,000. And then
14 moving back to San Diego to work with Billy, I worked for free
15 for the first year. And then, also, after that I worked for
16 about \$60,000 for the next couple of years.

17 Q. What kind of discretion did you have over client accounts
18 at Martin Kelly Capital?

19 A. We had the ability to make investments in client accounts
20 without having to OK it with them each time we wanted to make
21 an investment. And this was mainly limited to investments in
22 stocks and bonds and mutual funds, the more common type of
23 investments. Any private investments -- for example, a real
24 estate fund, a restaurant, a private company that a client
25 wanted to invest in -- we would need their authorization to do

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Hamels - Direct

1 so so we couldn't just invest for them in these kind of
2 alternative investments.

3 Q. Where were the Martin Kelly clients' funds custodied?

4 A. They were custodied at Charles Schwab.

5 Q. What does it mean that they were custodied at Charles
6 Schwab?

7 A. The client would open an account at Charles Schwab, an
8 investment account, deposit their money there with Schwab, and
9 then identify us, Martin Kelly, as the investment adviser who
10 would have discretion over the account and the ability to
11 manage that account for the client.

12 Q. You mentioned earlier that you held, I think, two
13 securities licenses when you were at C.E. Unterberg. What
14 happened to those licenses when you joined Martin Kelly?

15 A. The Series 7 license was going to expire. Martin Kelly was
16 not a broker-dealer that would hold those licenses; they were
17 just an investment adviser, an SEC registered adviser. So my
18 Series 7 would have expired if I did not have a brokerage firm
19 to hold my license for me. So the Series 7 would have expired,
20 but my other license, the Series 63, would remain active. And
21 then I was required to take an additional exam, the Series 65,
22 for investment advisers as part of working with Martin Kelly.

23 Q. Did you find a broker-dealer with whom to affiliate your
24 Series 7?

25 A. Yes. Westmoore Securities in Southern California.

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Hamels - Direct

1 Q. What is Westmoore?

2 A. Westmoore is a financial services, an investment firm.
3 They have a brokerage department that would sell stocks and
4 various investment offerings. They also had their own funds
5 and offerings which they would sell, for instance, loan funds,
6 where they would loan to small- and medium-sized businesses;
7 they would pool some investor money in order to make those
8 loans to businesses. So that was one of their investments.
9 They invested in real estate, some restaurants, oil and gas.
10 So they are a diversified type of investment firm.

11 Q. So Westmoore was, among other things, an entity in which
12 investors could invest?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. Were Martin Kelly clients invested in Westmoore?

15 A. Yes, they were.

16 Q. When were Martin Kelly clients first invested in Westmoore?

17 A. Mainly in 2006, and then into 2007, before I started
18 working with Martin Kelly, many of the clients were already
19 invested in various Westmoore products. And then when I
20 started in early to mid-2007, some additional clients after
21 that.

22 Q. What kind of Westmoore investments were Martin Kelly
23 clients invested in?

24 A. We invested in the funds, like I just mentioned, that would
25 loan to small- or medium-sized businesses. A lot of these

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Hamels - Direct

1 loans were backed up by some type of collateral, either
2 equipment of the business, assets, certain receivables,
3 personal guarantees by the borrowers, and then those would pay
4 out interest to the investors.

5 Q. You said they would pay out interest. How was that
6 structured?

7 A. So on monthly basis, as the funds were collecting their
8 loan payments from the borrowers, then that would be reflected
9 down to the investors as that interest would pay out. So on a
10 monthly basis our clients would see an update of the value of
11 their investment as that interest was paid out and added to
12 their accounts.

13 Q. Who ran Westmoore?

14 A. Matt Jennings.

15 Q. Did Jennings introduce you to any potential investments
16 outside of Westmoore?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. In particular, are you familiar with Jason Galanis?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. When was the first time you met him?

21 A. In the summer of 2008, Matt Jennings arranged a meeting
22 with myself and Billy Crafton to meet Jason Galanis in Los
23 Angeles.

24 Q. What was the general topic at that meeting?

25 A. We covered a couple of investments. One was Fund.com, an

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Hamels - Direct

1 equities magazine, a financial related media company that Jason
2 Galanis was involved with, and Matt Jennings was also
3 interested in investing in Fund.com with Westmoore.

4 In addition, we talked about an Asian company that
5 Jason Galanis was involved with, Asia Special Acquisition
6 Company. And they were also doing business with another
7 Westmoore related company ChinaTel.

8 So we discussed Jason's involvement in Fund.com, that
9 company, as well as the ChinaTel investment.

10 Q. Did you make any investments with him at that time?

11 A. No, I did not.

12 Q. Let's jump ahead and let me turn your attention to 2008.

13 Did there come a time that Jennings offered you any
14 inducements to invest in Westmoore?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What did he offer?

17 A. He offered free shares in Fund.com if we were able to help
18 him complete a round of fund-raising that he was doing. He was
19 raising about \$5 million for Westmoore, and they were looking
20 to invest that into Fund.com. He was \$2 million short at the
21 time, in August or so of 2008, and asked if we could help him
22 complete that fund-raising, with the final investment of \$2
23 million if we could, and he could give Billy Crafton shares in
24 Fund.com as compensation.

25 Q. Did you understand it to be proper to receive compensation

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Hamels - Direct

1 in the form of shares of Fund.com in return for the investment
2 in a client account?

3 A. It was not proper, especially if not disclosed to the
4 client prior.

5 Q. Did Mr. Crafton ever receive shares of Fund.com in
6 connection with that agreement?

7 A. Yes, he did.

8 Q. What happened to those shares?

9 A. So those shares were delivered to Billy Crafton in a
10 company he owned called Redhawk Capital, and over the course of
11 maybe a year or so we attempted -- Billy asked me to help him
12 deposit those shares into an account for himself, for his
13 company Redhawk, and I spent some time working with Charles
14 Schwab and trying to get the paperwork correct to be able to
15 deposit those shares for him.

16 Q. Why was it complicated to deposit those shares in Fund.com?

17 A. Fund.com at the time was considered like a penny stock, a
18 very small company. There wasn't a lot of active trading
19 volume in it, and for specific companies like that, Charles
20 Schwab required some additional paperwork to document how Billy
21 had acquired those shares, whether he paid for them or acquired
22 them in some other way. And so that was one of the challenges
23 in depositing the shares.

24 Q. Let's take a look at what is in evidence as Government
25 Exhibit 1282. There is also a hard copy in front of you,

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Hamels - Direct

1 Mr. Hamels, but it is coming up on the screen.

2 Starting sort of in the bottom e-mail in that chain,
3 which is from you, what is the purpose of the e-mail you're
4 sending here?

5 A. So I am sending this e-mail to Meghann McEnroe, and
6 attached would have been a copy of a consulting agreement
7 signed by Billy Crafton, and that consulting agreement would
8 say that Billy's company Redhawk would provide consulting
9 services in return for payment in Fund.com shares.

10 So Matt Jennings sent me this agreement to document
11 how Billy acquired the shares, and I am sending an executed
12 copy from Billy to Meghann McEnroe, where she would also sign
13 it and finalize the agreement.

14 Q. In the top e-mail she is returning the signed agreement to
15 you?

16 A. Yes, that's correct.

17 Q. What is Meghann McEnroe's e-mail address?

18 A. MMcenroe@sentinellawgroup.com.

19 Q. Did you know who sentinellawgroup.com was at that point in
20 time?

21 A. No, I did not.

22 Q. She cc's Jared Galanis. Did you know who that was at that
23 time?

24 A. No, I did not.

25 Q. Did you subsequently learn who Jared Galanis and Sentinel

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Hamels - Direct

1 Law Group were?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Who are they?

4 A. Jared Galanis is an attorney at Sentinel and the brother of
5 Jason Galanis.

6 Q. Let's turn to the next page of this document, which is the
7 attachment.

8 What is Redhawk Capital Management, Inc.?

9 A. That's a company that Billy owns, his personal corporation.

10 Q. And this is the consulting agreement that's the
11 justification for the Fund.com shares?

12 A. Yes, that's correct.

13 Q. Just to be clear, did Redhawk in fact perform any
14 consulting work that entitled it to Fund.com shares?

15 A. No, it did not.

16 Q. Is this a legitimate consulting agreement?

17 A. It is not.

18 Q. What is its purpose?

19 A. Its purpose is to show some documentation of how the shares
20 were acquired. So as I was submitting paperwork on behalf of
21 Billy to Charles Schwab, you can submit this document to show
22 that those shares were legitimately acquired through a
23 consulting agreement as compensation.

24 Q. Did there come a time when you learned about problems at
25 Westmoore?

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Hamels - Direct

1 A. Yes, in early 2009.

2 Q. How did you first learn about the problems?

3 A. Westmoore and Matt Jennings sent out an e-mail to investors
4 saying that, because of the financial crisis, their business
5 was slowing down, so they would not be able to redeem investors
6 or allow the clients to get their money out of any investments
7 at that time, nor would they be paying any interest to
8 investors going forward until they were able to restructure and
9 kind of get moving in a positive direction again after the
10 financial crisis.

11 Q. What does it mean to redeem an investor?

12 A. If the client wanted to get their money out, they would put
13 in a redemption request to have their funds liquidated and sent
14 back to them.

15 Q. So it's just fancy lingo for getting their money back?

16 A. That's right.

17 Q. What did Jennings tell you about the prospect for
18 Westmoore's recovery?

19 A. He was always very positive. So he said, while he was
20 making these restrictions on the ability to get money out and
21 not paying interest, that things were still pretty good at
22 Westmoore. They didn't have many defaults in their loans.
23 Their businesses were still operating. Their restaurants,
24 their real estate, their oil and gas is still going strong.
25 This was just temporary to restructure some things. But all

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Hamels - Direct

1 along, things were very positive, and I'm working on some other
2 opportunities to help continue to grow the business.

3 Q. Stepping back for one moment, during this time period of
4 Westmoore's difficulties, what, if anything, was happening to
5 the ownership of Martin Kelly?

6 A. At the end of 2009, in December, Martin Kelly was acquired
7 by SunTrust Bank, and they had a sports division that was
8 growing and they acquired our group at Martin Kelly.

9 Q. Did you physically move into new offices?

10 A. No, we stayed in the same office.

11 Q. How, if at all, did your role change on a day-to-day basis
12 after the acquisition of Martin Kelly by SunTrust Bank?

13 A. It was still pretty similar. I worked pretty closely with
14 another individual out of Atlanta, as far as the investments
15 for our clients and for other sports and entertainment clients.
16 So we would discuss a lot about the various investments we
17 wanted to allocate to our clients, reviewing the research
18 options that we had, and trying to build portfolios together
19 and investments together. So it was pretty similar to what I
20 was doing before, but just with a counterpart in Atlanta.

21 Q. Let's go back to Westmoore's difficulties.

22 During the time when Westmoore was not allowing
23 clients to get their money back, did you, Martin Kelly, have
24 any clients who wanted to redeem, that is, take the money from
25 Martin Kelly?

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Hamels - Direct

1 A. Yes. We did have one client that requested their money to
2 get out.

3 Q. Who was that?

4 A. David Riske.

5 Q. What steps did you take to allow him to redeem his
6 investment?

7 A. We went to Matt Jennings, and knowing that there was not
8 many opportunities to get funds out of Westmoore at that time,
9 we asked if there was anything he could do to help us
10 accommodate this client. And he said he had some personal
11 stock he could sell us, or sell to our clients, and you could
12 use those funds to help pay back Mr. Riske.

13 Q. What was the stock that he offered to sell?

14 A. He offered us two stocks, Recovery Energy and Fund.com.

15 Q. Did you purchase those stocks for other clients to provide
16 liquidity to redeem Riske?

17 A. Yes. In various client accounts we invested in Recovery
18 Energy and Fund.com from Matt Jennings and that got us to about
19 \$200,000 in funds, and Riske needed about 700,000 to be fully
20 made whole.

21 Q. What, if any, other stocks did you take?

22 A. So for that remaining 500,000 that we were short, Matt
23 Jennings said he had a friend that could sell us some
24 additional stock, and you could those proceeds to go towards
25 Mr. Riske as well, and that would get us 500,000 and complete

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Hamels - Direct

1 the 700,000 we needed to redeem Mr. Riske.

2 Q. Did he tell you what the identity of the friend was?

3 A. He did not.

4 Q. What stock was the friend offering to sell?

5 A. It was called Rineon Group.

6 MS. HARRIS: Objection.

7 THE COURT: Overruled.

8 Q. Did you in fact purchase the Rineon stock in client
9 accounts?

10 A. Yes, we did.

11 Q. Did there come a time when you learned additional bad news
12 about Westmoore?

13 A. Yes. In mid-June of 2010, Matt Jennings called me, and the
14 SEC had filed an action against Westmoore freezing the assets
15 and suing Westmoore and Matt Jennings.

16 Q. You said you learned that from a phone call from Matt
17 Jennings?

18 A. Yes, he called me that day that he found out the news.

19 Q. What did that mean for Martin Kelly clients?

20 A. It was pretty serious. We had a lot of clients invested in
21 Westmoore over the years. Some of those clients had nearly all
22 of their money invested in Westmoore. So the fact that it was
23 frozen and the SEC was pursuing action against Westmoore was a
24 serious concern for us, for all the clients that were invested,
25 and especially those that had nearly all their money in

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1 Westmoore.

2 Q. Approximately what percentage of all of Martin Kelly's
3 clients' assets was invested in Westmoore at that point?

4 A. Roughly, 20 percent of our client assets overall were
5 invested in Westmoore.

6 Q. What is that as a dollar figure?

7 A. That was about \$25 million worth of investments.

8 Q. When is it that you got this phone call from Mr. Jennings?

9 A. The day of the SEC freeze, which was, I believe, June 17,
10 2010.

11 Q. What did you do when you got that news?

12 A. So I went right into Billy Crafton's office, gave him the
13 news, and we started discussing kind of next steps, what we
14 should do. Billy asked if I could meet Matt Jennings in person
15 as soon as possible to discuss what was going on with the SEC.

16 Q. Did you do that?

17 A. Yes. So this was a Thursday that the news came out. Then
18 the next morning, Friday morning, I met with Matt Jennings.

19 Q. Where did you meet him?

20 A. We meant in Irvine, in Orange County, California.

21 Q. Who was at that meeting?

22 A. When I had showed up, I was at a coffee shop in a business
23 park, and Matt Jennings was there and Jason Galanis was there.

24 Q. Had you been aware that Jason Galanis was going to attend
25 that meeting?

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1 A. I was not aware.

2 Q. Had you seen Jason Galanis since the one meeting you had
3 with him in 2008?

4 A. I had not, no.

5 Q. Was anyone else at the meeting?

6 A. No, just the three of us.

7 Q. What was discussed at that meeting?

8 A. I was asking Matt a lot of questions, just about Westmoore,
9 the state of Westmoore. Are there any assets? Do they have
10 money? Is there any real merit to this lawsuit? And what his
11 next steps are. And then Jason was there -- it did seem more
12 in a supportive role as a friend to Matt -- trying to help come
13 up with ideas on how to move forward. Matt seemed to be very
14 shocked about -- still very shocked about being sued by the
15 SEC, but believed there was real value in the Westmoore
16 investments and real value in their assets.

17 Q. Did you still believe there was underlying value in the
18 Westmoore investments at that point?

19 A. I did.

20 Q. Did there come a time when you met with Jennings and
21 Galanis again?

22 A. Yes, the following week. At the end of our initial
23 meeting, Matt had suggested that perhaps myself or myself and
24 Billy and Jason should get together, maybe there was a way we
25 could come together and help each other out through this issue,

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Hamels - Direct

1 and Matt set up a meeting for the following week with Jason
2 Galanis, myself and Billy Crafton.

3 Q. Where did that meeting take place?

4 A. That was at a hotel in Los Angeles.

5 Q. Was anyone other than the four people you mentioned present
6 for that meeting?

7 A. No, just the four of us.

8 Q. How did the meeting get started?

9 A. So Matt kind of made introductions again for myself, Billy
10 Crafton and Jason Galanis, and then said, hopefully you guys
11 can find a way to work together through this. And then Matt
12 removed himself from the meeting, and it was just myself, Billy
13 and Jason.

14 Q. What, if anything, did Jason propose during that meeting?

15 A. At that meeting, he suggested that if we were able to make
16 additional investments of our clients' money, he would be able
17 to get us stocks back in our clients' accounts, which could
18 help replace any lost value that our Westmoore investments
19 could experience because of the SEC crisis. So we would make a
20 new investment and then he would deliver stocks to us.

21 MS. HARRIS: Objection.

22 THE COURT: Overruled.

23 (Continued on next page)

RISKE

Direct - Mr. Hamels

1 BY MS. MERMELSTEIN:

2 Q. Let's back up to make sure we're catching that. So he
3 proposed that you would make an investment in a particular
4 stock?

5 A. He proposed an investment in three stocks. If we invested
6 \$10 million across three companies, those companies were
7 Gerova, Rineon, and WLMG Holdings, we can invest \$10 million
8 across those three companies, and in turn, the value of the
9 securities we would receive back would be roughly \$36 million.

10 Q. How is that possible?

11 A. So we would invest at a lower price, and then Jason Galanis
12 or his associates or entities would then move those -- the
13 price of those stocks higher. So, for example, if he had us
14 buy a stock at \$5 that was very infrequently traded, so there
15 wasn't much market activity, we could buy it at \$5 from him,
16 and then they could, with a couple of trades, move that \$5
17 stock up to \$25. So that's how we could see the increase in
18 value by investing \$10 million, but then shortly after that,
19 our clients would see \$36 million of statement value.

20 Q. Did you understand that to be allowed?

21 A. That was not allowed.

22 Q. What else, if anything, did Jason Galanis offer you as part
23 of this deal?

24 THE COURT: What do you mean when you say "statement
25 value"? Is "statement value" the same as "value"?

RISKE

Direct - Mr. Hamels

1 THE WITNESS: Yes. So for example, we had \$25 million
2 worth of Westmoore securities that were in danger of becoming
3 zero through the SEC action. So we were looking to replace
4 that value with other stock --

5 THE COURT: I heard that. My question is limited to
6 the concept of you referred to, "statement value".

7 THE WITNESS: Right.

8 THE COURT: Is that the same as the actual value?

9 THE WITNESS: The actual value of those companies?

10 THE COURT: Could you sell your holdings at that price
11 that the statement reflects?

12 THE WITNESS: I understand. Most likely, no, because
13 there is minimal to no market activity in those companies, so
14 that would be possibly considered paper value. For example,
15 that \$25 stock, there's nobody else out there in the market
16 trading and buying that stock. So it may say \$25 on paper, but
17 if I really went out to sell it, there would be no buyers, so
18 really, that value would be much less than \$25. It's probably
19 closer to zero, or \$1, or something much lower.

20 BY MS. MERMELSTEIN:

21 Q. Just so we're clear. The effect of inflating the price of
22 the demonstrated stock would be to have a number that would be
23 listed on client statements that was, in fact, fraudulently
24 higher than the real value.

25 A. That's correct.

RISKE

Direct - Mr. Hamels

1 Q. Okay. Other than the offer to take \$10 million and return
2 \$36 million of paper value stock, were there any other
3 incentives Jason Galanis offered during that meeting?

4 A. Yes. He offered to provide a liquidity pool or a cash pool
5 for any of our clients that needed emergency money. So we had
6 told him \$10 million is too much for us to invest in new money,
7 maybe we can do \$5 million in return for \$25 million of value
8 to replace their Westmoore losses. And by us investing
9 \$5 million with him, he would provide us \$1 million back with
10 liquidity to provide the clients that would need emergency
11 money that we could not get out of the Westmoore investment.

12 Q. And liquidity is just another way of saying cash you can
13 give back to clients?

14 A. Correct, cash.

15 Q. Did you have an urgent need for cash?

16 A. We did. We had one client that -- separate from
17 Mr. Risky -- but another client at that time that wanted all
18 their money out of Westmoore. It was about \$285,000. And we,
19 at that meeting at the hotel in Los Angeles, asked Jason if he
20 could help us get cash to that client.

21 Q. What did he say?

22 MS. HARRIS: Objection.

23 THE COURT: For the fact that it was said, not for the
24 truth of the content.

25 MS. MERMELSTEIN: I think the government intends to

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Direct - Mr. Hamels

1 offer the statement in furtherance of the conspiracy.

2 MS. HARRIS: Could we approach, your Honor?

3 THE COURT: Yes.

4 Ladies and gentlemen, stand up and stretch.

5 (Continued on next page)

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RISKE

Direct - Mr. Hamels

1 (At sidebar)

2 THE COURT: First of all, what do you expect the
3 testimony to be?

4 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Your Honor, I expect the testimony
5 will be that this meeting is the first meeting in which Jason
6 Galanis essentially offers Gavin Hamels the opportunity to join
7 the criminal conspiracy in which, in return for an investment,
8 ultimately the way it's structured is in a \$5 million
9 investment in Gerova to be made through matched trading, in
10 return for which three, quote/unquote, shares of Rineon and
11 WLMG will be provided to Martin Kelly to place in client
12 accounts to cover up, essentially, that Westmoore is going to
13 go to zero, and that as part of that criminal agreement, Jason
14 Galanis also offered liquidity in the form of up to a million
15 dollars to be provided for clients who needed to redeem, and in
16 fact, Jason Galanis did provide some of that liquidity, and
17 then Mr. Hamels engaged in the matched trading he had agreed
18 to.

19 MS. HARRIS: Your Honor, this essentially reiterates
20 some of our in limine concerns, and this is where it comes to a
21 head where we do not believe that this phase of the narrative
22 is part of the original conspiracy. I don't think a foundation
23 has been alleged enough to establish these statements are
24 anything connected to the allegations that involve Mr. Hirst
25 back the other part of the case. So I don't think these are

RISKE

Direct - Mr. Hamels

1 statements in furtherance of the conspiracy, they're too
2 attenuated.

3 THE COURT: They certainly appear to me, at least
4 prima facie, to be statements that form the basis on which this
5 witness joined the conspiracy. It does not need to relate to
6 Mr. Hirst's end of the conspiracy, different conspirators have
7 different roles. This is how Mr. Hamels joined the conspiracy,
8 and it could be offered for the truth of its content. Thank
9 you.

10 (Continued on next page)

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RISKE

Direct - Mr. Hamels

1 (In open court)

2 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Your Honor, may I have one moment to
3 consult with my colleagues?

4 THE COURT: Sure.

5 (Pause)

6 BY MS. MERMELSTEIN:

7 Q. So we were talking, I think, before we stopped for a moment
8 about the liquidity that Jason Galanis offered. You were
9 saying, how urgent was your need for that liquidity when
10 Mr. Galanis offered it to you?

11 A. We asked at that meeting in Los Angeles if he could help us
12 right away with a client that needed money or had asked for
13 their money out.

14 Q. What did you understand of Jason Galanis' connection to
15 WLMG, Rineon, and Gerova?

16 A. My understanding, he had some sort of either executive role
17 or important shareholder role in those companies. He seemed
18 very active in the operation of those businesses, and as far as
19 his communication of the plans to grow those companies and how
20 they would make acquisitions and grow those businesses into
21 larger businesses, so he came across as an executive type role.

22 Q. Did he refer to them as being his companies?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Did you ever meet other executives or individuals
25 associated with any of those three entities?

RISKE

Direct - Mr. Hamels

1 A. No. The only individually I communicated with was Jared
2 Galanis about those companies with Jason, but I did not meet
3 any others.

4 Q. Did you ever meet Jared Galanis in person?

5 A. I did not.

6 Q. So just email, telephone communication?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. In particular, did you ever meet Gary Hirst?

9 A. I did not.

10 Q. Did Galanis explain to you where the Gerova, Rineon, and
11 WLMG shares were coming from?

12 A. He did not explain it other than to speak of those shares
13 as "his" or "ours". So either entities that he controlled, or
14 perhaps even personal shares, but he didn't specify, he only
15 spoke in the term of "our shares" or "my shares", something
16 like that.

17 Q. What, if anything, did Jason Galanis tell you about why he
18 was prepared to offer this deal?

19 A. He said it was a situation where our problem could help
20 him. So by getting Rineon and WLMG's shares to our clients and
21 asking us to hold those shares for a year or longer and not
22 trade them, he would be able to do a couple of things. One is,
23 he would try to get -- certain stock market listings, you need
24 a minimum number of shareholders to qualify for various stock
25 market listings. So having our 50 to 60 clients own shares in

RISKE

Direct - Mr. Hamels

1 those two companies would help get him towards that minimum
2 number. And in addition, if our clients weren't selling those
3 shares, there wouldn't be any type of price volatility where we
4 could go in and sell 100 shares, and our \$25 stock then drops
5 down to 5 or \$1 without any notice to him. He wanted to know
6 where all the stock was, and if the stock was with us and our
7 clients and we told him we wouldn't sell it, that would give
8 him comfort and allow him to do various transactions with that
9 stock.

10 Q. In addition to the stability of knowing that you would hold
11 the shares, did Jason Galanis have any interest in increasing
12 the number of shareholders?

13 A. Yes. For the purpose of meeting certain minimum numbers of
14 shareholders to qualify for stock listing.

15 Q. Was that for all three companies, or just some of them?

16 A. That was just for the Rineon and the WLMG. At that time,
17 Gerova was already on the American Stock Exchange and was a
18 much larger company and had already, to the best of my
19 knowledge, had met all of those minimum investing requirements
20 at that point.

21 Q. Did you ultimately agree to this plan with Jason Galanis?

22 A. We agreed to a variation of it, but we did agree to a plan
23 with Jason.

24 Q. What was the variation?

25 THE COURT: What do you mean by "we agreed"?

RISKE

Direct - Mr. Hamels

1 THE WITNESS: Myself and Billy Crafton.

2 THE COURT: Thank you.

3 Q. What was the variation of the plan that you agreed to?

4 A. After this initial proposal to invest across all three
5 companies, it eventually came down to Jason instructing us,
6 myself or Billy, to invest \$5 million into Gerova by investing
7 in the stock market, buying the stock for our clients, and in
8 return, they would gift to our clients the Rineon and WLMG. So
9 the \$5 million investment went directly into Gerova, and then
10 our clients got free shares in their accounts.

11 Q. Did you personally get any money in connection with that
12 agreed upon transaction?

13 A. No, I did not.

14 Q. Why did you agree to it?

15 A. We were at a desperate place. I mean, I think the real
16 possibility of losing \$25 million from our Westmoore
17 investments would have severely hurt our business. We would
18 have lost clients. And we didn't want there to be a panic, and
19 so we had this opportunity to do something that was proactive
20 to try to preserve value for them, but really, you know, we
21 were concerned about clients leaving us.

22 Q. How was the deal structured in the formal pattern?

23 A. So for the Gerova investment, we would invest in the stock
24 market and buy the shares for our clients. For the Rineon and
25 WLMG, the various entities that owned those stocks would loan

RISKE

Direct - Mr. Hamels

1 those stocks to an LLC. Jason and Jared Galanis had said they
2 could make Billy the owner or principal of this LLC that's
3 borrowing the stock, and then Billy could then gift the stock
4 to our clients. So they explained it as a loan of stock to
5 Billy, basically, that Billy could then gift to the clients.

6 Q. Let me ask you, Mr. Hamels, to look in the Redweld in front
7 of you and pull out Government's Exhibit 680 and 682 for
8 identification. Those are not yet in evidence.

9 A. Okay.

10 Q. Do you recognize those?

11 A. Yes, I do.

12 Q. Let's start with 680. What is that?

13 A. So this is a purchase agreement for the shares of Rineon
14 and WLMG. So basically, Billy accepting these shares on behalf
15 of the clients.

16 Q. 682, what is that?

17 A. 682 is a promissory note or a loan agreement. This is a
18 draft of an agreement that would document the loan of those
19 stocks of Rineon and WLMG to the LLC or to Billy.

20 Q. So this is the paperwork associated with the agreement you
21 struck with Jason Galanis.

22 A. That's right.

23 MS. MERMELSTEIN: The government offers Government's
24 Exhibit 680 and 682.

25 MS. HARRIS: Over our previous objections.

RISKE

Direct - Mr. Hamels

1 THE COURT: Understood. Received.

2 (Government's Exhibits 680, 682 received in evidence)

3 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Let's, if we can, publish first 680
4 to the jury, please.

5 BY MS. MERMELSTEIN:

6 Q. Remind the jury, now that they have it in front of them,
7 which one this is.

8 A. This is the purchase agreement of the shares.

9 Q. What is Hillsden Subsidiary Ltd.?

10 A. This is one the entities that was contributing the stock or
11 loaning the stock, the Rineon and WLMG stock.

12 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Ms. Sheinwald, if we can flip to the
13 last page of that document. I don't think we're there yet with
14 the jury. There we go.

15 Q. Whose name is under the signatory block for Hillsden
16 Subsidiary Ltd.?

17 A. Maureena Galindo.

18 Q. What about the second signatory line?

19 A. Bill Crafton.

20 Q. This document is not signed. Was this agreement ever
21 executed?

22 A. No, it was not.

23 Q. Then let's pull up 682. Again, what is this document?

24 A. This is the loan agreement or promissory note for the
25 entities that loaned the shares to Billy Crafton or the LLC

RISKE

Direct - Mr. Hamels

1 that he would control.

2 Q. Now, this document has a number of blanks, including who
3 the parties are, the amounts owed. Was this ever filled out?

4 A. No, it was not.

5 Q. Was there ever a promissory note of any kind executed
6 between Crafton and the provider of the WLMG and Rineon shares?

7 A. No.

8 Q. What was your understanding about whether or not the loan
9 had to actually be paid?

10 A. Many times in talking about, kind of, the documentation of
11 this with Jerad Galanis, he had said this would be a
12 nonrecourse note to Billy where he really wouldn't have to pay
13 it back, or perhaps we could pay it back with Westmoore
14 securities once the SEC action was resolved. Jared threw out
15 the various options of how we could either pay this back or
16 multiple times he said maybe we don't even have to pay it back.
17 So it was a very loose agreement or loose loan agreement, and
18 no specifics on how we had to pay it back.

19 Q. Before agreeing to this transaction with Jason Galanis, did
20 you conduct any due diligence on WLMG or Rineon or Gerova?

21 A. Minimal. So after the meeting in Los Angeles where Jason
22 mentioned these three companies, I went back and looked up what
23 I could find on them. There wasn't much public information or
24 public filings, but I just looked up whatever I could find.

25 Q. Did Jason Galanis provide you with any documents about the

RISKE

Direct - Mr. Hamels

1 company?

2 A. Jared provided me some documents at some point, but I had
3 multiple discussions with Jason and Jared about these three
4 companies, just asking them for more information, walk me
5 through the business plan for Rineon and asked them to walk me
6 through the business plan for WLMG, similarly for Gerova. Just
7 many times when I spoke with them, asking them if there's any
8 new information, what's the financial health, financial
9 prospects, just trying to kind of learn more about these
10 companies and have more information.

11 Q. Was the due diligence you performed on WLMG, Rineon, and
12 Gerova, was that a typical amount of diligence that you would
13 perform for a potential investment?

14 A. It was not. It was much less.

15 Q. Was your decision to invest client funds in those three
16 entities, was the due diligence determinative in that?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Would you have invested in those companies at this
19 particular time absent the deal with Jason Galanis?

20 A. No.

21 Q. At this point in time, Suntrust owned Martin Kelly; is that
22 right?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. Did you tell anyone at Suntrust about this agreement at the
25 time you entered into it?

RISKE

Direct - Mr. Hamels

1 A. No, I did not.

2 Q. Why not?

3 A. I think Suntrust would not have authorized this type of
4 transaction or else they would have required their legal
5 department or compliance department to more closely scrutinize
6 the proposal.

7 Q. Did you tell Martin Kelly clients that you entered into
8 that arrangement?

9 A. No, not specifically. We told them about the free shares
10 they were receiving, but we did not specifically tell them in
11 order to get those free shares we need to buy additional stock
12 in Gerova. We did not tell them about that complete
13 transaction.

14 Q. Why not?

15 A. I think it probably would have required -- it would have
16 been difficult to explain to clients, and they may not have
17 agreed to it.

18 Q. What did you tell clients about why they were getting these
19 seemingly free shares?

20 A. We sent clients a letter with some other paperwork that
21 Charles Schwab required, and in the letter we said there's an
22 issue with Westmoore, the SEC has an action against it, we
23 don't really know the value of Westmoore, but we've taken this
24 other action on your behalf, and you'll be receiving these two
25 sets of free stocks to replace that value in Westmoore.

RISKE

Direct - Mr. Hamels

1 There's no cost to you as the client to receive these shares,
2 and please sign this documentation to be able to complete this
3 transaction.

4 Q. Why did you need the clients to sign documentation to
5 complete the transaction?

6 A. To deposit those shares in their accounts, the clients
7 needed to sign a form for Charles Schwab with some specifics
8 about that stock, the number of shares, how it was acquired,
9 that type of a thing.

10 Q. While you were structuring this transaction, what had
11 happened to the reported value of Westmoore?

12 THE COURT: All right. Ladies and gentlemen, we're
13 going to hold you in suspense on that and break a little bit
14 early. We're going to pick up with the answer to that question
15 tomorrow morning.

16 As always, keep an open mind, don't discuss the case
17 among yourselves, don't go on the internet doing your own
18 research on the case. Do have a very pleasant evening, and
19 don't discuss the case with anyone. We'll see you back for a
20 start tomorrow, same time, 10:00. See you then.

21 (Continued on next page)
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25

RISKE

Direct - Mr. Hamels

1 (Jury not present)

2 THE COURT: See you tomorrow at 9:45.

3 MS. MERMELSTEIN: If we could ask the witness to be
4 excused and take a matter up with your Honor?

5 THE COURT: Could we take it up tomorrow morning?

6 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Yes.

7 THE COURT: What is it?

8 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Tomorrow morning is fine, your
9 Honor.

10 MS. HARRIS: The exhibit, your Honor, I don't know if
11 it affects the government's case tomorrow.

12 THE COURT: Say that again.

13 MS. HARRIS: We had the issue with Government's
14 Exhibit 910.

15 THE COURT: The chart?

16 MS. HARRIS: Yes.

17 THE COURT: We'll take it up tomorrow morning.

18 (Adjourned to September 20th, 2016, at 9:45 a.m.)
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